Daily Report

Latin America

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Spain To Join Esquipulas Verification Process

LD082102 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1130 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Spain, together with the FRG and Canada, will form part of the commission for the verification of the Esquipulas II peace accords for Central America. This decision was taken by the foreign ministers of the five Central American countries at a meeting in Guatemala that ended this morning, in the early hours. Other decisions include the creation of a regional treaty of friendship and cooperation, stating that the five countries of the isthmus commit themselves firmly and irrevocably to always using peaceful procedures for the resolution of their conflicts. This treaty will be signed in Tela, Honduras in May, when the five Central American foreign ministers hold another meeting.

Regarding the starting up of the verification commission to which Spain will belong, a technical group will be set up immediately; this group will be responsible for drawing up the work norms and specific objectives. This group will have particular functions in the process of verifying, checking, and monitoring the observance of the accords, above all with regard to the pacification of the region. The absence of Ibero-American countries from this verification commission had been justified by the Guatemalan foreign minister, Alfonso Cabrera, following the suggestion from his Brazilian counterpart, Roberto Abreu Sodre. Abreu Sodre had said that none of them has the economic or technical capability to perform these functions.

ALADI Subgroup Meeting Ends in Asuncion

PY111603 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Apr 88 p 13

[Excerpts] The meeting of the ALADI Group of Relatively Less Economically Developed Countries (PMDER) concluded last night with the official representatives of Paraguay, Bolivia, and Ecuador taking a favorable attitude toward the Paraguayan proposal to modify the Montevideo Treaty. This was the only subject discussed during the meeting.

The meeting concluded after a round of talks in which ALADI Secretary General Norberto Bertaina (Argentina) participated. [passage omitted]

The PMDER group has decided to hold another meeting in early July in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, to discuss the specific projects to be presented to the ALADI secretary general. The group also decided to sponsor meetings among the customs, transport, debureaucratization, migration, and health control officials of the member countries in order to discuss the difficulties of the landlocked countries in these fields and the solutions proposed by the ALADI secretary general. These meetings will take place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in May.

Cuba

Trade Minister Condemns U.S. Policy in Panama

FL112240 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas has termed U.S. economic attacks on Panama typical Yankee policy. He said this during a Group of 77 ministers meeting on customs cooperation.

Delegates from 60 countries attending the meeting in Belgrade, Yugoslavia acknowledged today the case presented by our country against the attacks victimizing the Latin American nation. Cabrisas told the delegates the international community is now watching, incredulously and indignantly, one of the most censurable expressions of U.S. policy, summed up in a number of coercive measures against the Panamanian people.

The Cuban minister asserted that the developing world must show its solidarity with the Panamanian people and strongly demand the end of the attacks to which they are being subjected.

U.S. Policy on Drug Trafficking 'Dishonest'

PA111542 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 88

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The Reagan administration does not have any qualms about taking completely paradoxical stands through its political activities. A report from Washington says the White House is considering the possibility of creating a multinational force to fight drug trafficking, especially in Latin America.

As you may recall, U.S. soldiers have been sent to several Latin American countries under the pretext of fighting drug trafficking. The media of the countries where those forces are stationed, however, have repeatedly stated that the intention of those U.S. troops is to become familiar with and study the area for possible counterinsurgency operations.

The fact that the U.S. forces have never succeeded in their alleged antinarcotics missions confirms those reports. The idea of creating a U.S. multinational force is, therefore, a new disguise for activities against the Latin American people, or a propaganda maneuver.

At the beginning of our commentary, we were talking about paradoxes. There are two big paradoxes in this whole official circus run by the White House. The first is that Washington does not work effectively to eliminate local drug trafficking. As long as there is such a large, promising drug market, it will be difficult to restrict suppliers.

The second and worst paradox, worst because of its moral and political implications, is that the Reagan administration has used drug traffickers to provide weapons and military equipment to the bands of former Somozist guardsmen who are attacking Nicaragua.

A few hours ago, drug trafficker Michael Palmer admitted before a Senate subcommittee that his private airline, which is called Vortex and is involved in the transporting of drugs from Colombia to the United States, was hired by the U.S. State Department to transport aid to the mercenary bands. The very lucrative contract with Vortex was signed early in 1986, and Vortex collected $97,000 from the U.S. Treasury.

It has been said repeatedly that the planes, after delivering the aid to the counterrevolutionaries, brought drugs back to the United States under the carte blanche provided by their contract with the State Department.

One cannot be more dishonest. Reagan has designated himself champion of the struggle against drug trafficking. He tries to impose on others the measures and restrictions he should implement in the United States.

The saga of the support for the bands of former Somozist guardsmen still has many hidden surprises. Of course, it will not be pleasant at all for the current U.S. President to go down in history as the President who made a pact with the devil because of his determination to destroy Nicaragua.

Raul Castro Decorates Soviet Cosmonaut

FL091315 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro decorated Soviet Cosmonaut-Pilot Yuriy Romanenko with the Carlos J. Finlay Order in a ceremony held in Havana last night. The Council of State agreement was read by Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Simeon noted the important achievements of the twice hero of the Soviet Union and hero of the Republic of Cuba.

Romanenko, for his part, expressed appreciation for the gesture and described Comrade Raul as a great friend of Soviet cosmonauts.

Dos Santos Message to Troops in Angola Cited

FL081806 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Report by Diosdado Maso from Luanda]

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola and of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party, has congratulated the Cuban internationalists and the Angolan soldiers who distinguished themselves in the defense of Cuito Cuanavale Municipality in Cuando

Cubango Province against the attacks of the racist South African Army and the puppets of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

The Angolan president asserted that the government and people would like to make use of the determination, courage, and responsibility displayed by these outstanding fighters in solving health, education, agriculture, and economic problems for the development of the Angolan nation. He said that simple officers and soldiers had taught a lesson to the racists, who thought that because they were white and powerful could defeat a backward nation like Angola, a nation of blacks and mulattos. He emphasized that the Angolan people are fighting on all fronts—economic, military, and diplomatic—with a single objective:

[Begin Dos Santos recording, in Portuguese] That objective is to defend the Angolan people, preserve their independence, and create the conditions for implementation of a program of peace and work, so that socialism can be built in the People's Republic of Angola. [end recording]

French Secretary of State for Education Arrives

FL071705 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mrs Michele Alliot-Marie, French secretary of state for education, arrived in Cuba last night. Jose R. Fernandez, Cuban minister of education, went to the Havana airport to welcome Mrs Alliot-Marie.

The French secretary of state for education is heading a delegation that will remain in Cuba for 3 days. The mission will visit educational and scientific-technical centers.

Received by Rodriguez

FL091325 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received in Havana Michele Alliot-Marie, French secretary of state for education.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and current international events. They also noted interest and willingness to broaden cooperation in technology, medicine, and personnel training.

International Red Cross President Visits

FL111222 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Red Cross, arrived last night in Havana on an official visit. Mr Sommaruga was recently elected president of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He came to our country in the company of Mr (Bornet), general delegate for Latin America, and Mr (Ronald Desmill), delegate of the America and Caribbean Center.

Mr Sommaruga will visit the Isle of Youth, the Centro Habana and William Soler pediatrics hospitals, the Ernesto Che Guevara Pioneers Palace, family doctor offices, and other centers of social-cultural interest. He will return home on 13 April following talks with Cuban figures.

Meets Public Health Minister

FL112315 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, met today in Havana with Julio Teja, minister of public health and president of the Cuban Red Cross.

The Cuban official said there are closer ties now between the humanitarian organization and the Cuban Red Cross. He also stated that the support given to the recognized work the organization carries out is increasing.

The president of the International Red Cross Committee expressed his appreciation for the hospitality of the Cuban Government. He added that the organization has advocated human rights and shown solidarity with victims of natural disasters and military conflicts during its 125 years of work. Mr Cornelio Sommaruga pointed out that the activities the committee carries out are highly regarded by people of all social origins.

ANPP Group Leaves for Guatemala IPU Meeting

FL111234 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] A delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] led by Deputy Faustino Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the Local Bodies of the People's Government Department, has left for Guatemala to attend the 79th IPU conference. Among other topics, the world parliamentarians will discuss the media, peace, and development. The IPU will meet from 11 to 17 April.

ANPP Delegates Report Back to Constituents

FL111056 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1011 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The third report-back process of the fifth mandate delegates is underway throughout the country. Pinar del Rio Province is fulfilling its plan of meetings 100 percent. Guantanamo, Matanzas, and Granma are also doing well with regard to their delegates' reports to the constituents, a genuine expression of socialist democracy. During this process, residents can clearly set out the community's concerns.

According to a release from the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], the concerns most often expressed involve road and street repairs and the bad quality of bread and meat. In several places around the country, the voters have complained of the poor distribution of toothpaste. They have also asked for more electrical services.

Antigua and Barbuda

Official Confirms Envoy to UN Recalled

FL082122 Bridgetown CANA in English 1853 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] St John's, Antigua, April 8, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda on Friday confirmed it had recalled its permanent representative at the United Nations, Lloydstone Jacobs, who is the subject of an investigation by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

A terse statement from deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs said: The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has recalled His Excellency Mr Lloydstone Jacobs, ambassador and permanent representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations for consultation.

"During his absence, Dr Patrick Lewis, minister counsellor at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission at United Nations, will be in charge... [quotation marks as received]

Bird declined to confirm or deny that the United States Government had threatened to expell Jacobs if he was not recalled.

"Let me just stick to the statement," Bird told CANA when contacted by telephone.

Well-informed sources here had earlier reported that the Antigua Government had communicated its decision to Jacobs this week, in the face of formal notification that the FBI was probing allegations that he was involved in the illegal sale of passports and green cards, which permit residency for foreigners in the U.S.

Jacobs, one of the Caribbean's longest serving ambassadors at the UN, acknowledged the probe, but strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

"I have been informed by the government in St. John's that it received a letter from the U.S. indicating that I was under investigation for engaging in the sale of passports, money laundering, and something to do with green cards," Jacobs told CANA in New York.

"I can't even begin to understand how such an investigation could be started in the first place. Clearly, the charges are false, and my country must act to protest this action," he added.

Jacobs Denies U.S. Charges

FL082114 Bridgetown CANA in English 1755 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] United Nations, April 8, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's embattled ambassador to the United Nations, Lloydstone Jacobs, is asking his country to protest U.S. allegations that he might have been involved in illegal activities here.

Jacobs, one of the Caribbean's longest serving ambassadors at the UN, is under investigation by the U.S. for allegedly selling Antiguan passports to people not entitled to them and reportedly engaging in activities designed to secure U.S. green cards for people.

"I am an innocent man," Jacobs told CANA Friday. "My country will have to protest these ludicrous and untrue charges against me."

Jacobs, Antigua's permenant representative at the world body for the past ten years, said that the U.S. investigation of him was illegal, since as a diplomat he had immunity from such steps by the "host country."

"The Geneva Convention clearly protects diplomats and their missions from these kinds of things," he commented.

However, he said he wanted to clear his name and indicated that he would be prepared to waive diplomatic immunity to have his say in court.

On the U.S. request to Antigua to recall Jacobs within seven days, the diplomat declared: "I am not going to run and hide because I have done nothing wrong," he added.

It is being widely reported here that federal authorities carried out an undercover operation by sending people into the Antigua UN Mission to pretend that they wanted to do business in Antigua. It is alleged that during the operation, passports might have been secured by people who are not entitled to them. But Jacobs strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

"My office does not issue passports, so how I could be involved in that," he asked.

The ambassador described the green card accusation as "ridiculous," arguing that such immigration documents were issued only by the U.S. Government itself.

"I don't have anything to do with green cards."

A green card is the name given to the document issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS), to permanent resident aliens.

Describing himself as "a born-again Christian" who didn't smoke, drink, and engage in "sinful activity" he said he had retained a lawyer to find out about the allegations and to defend him if necessary.

Grenada

Blaize: Misinformation Aimed at Destabilization

FL111819 Bridgetown CANA in English 1855 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 10, CANA—Prime Minister Herbert Blaize says there is a misinformation campaign being waged by unnamed elements bent on destabilizing his administration.

In a radio broadcast, Blaize cited what he said was deliberate misinformation about government's two-and-a-half percent business levy on the sale of goods.

Blaize said opponents were never willing to say that the tax only applies to businesses with sales in excess of 2 million E.C. dollars.

"I want to warn you that you have to be on guard against those who are spreading misinformation", he said.

"It is not what they say but you better look and see who is saying it because there are some who are designing misinformation for a purpose which is helping to get more confusion and destabilization," he added.

The business levy makes provision for exemptions for business with sales less than 100,000 dollars and for a one percent levy for the next 900,000 dollars worth of business.

In addition, the next one million dollars worth of sales would bring a tax of a one-and-a-half percent.

The Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce has often called for the tax to be revamped and replaced by a regime in which the tax liabilities of companies should be based on net profits at a rate of either 35 or 40 percent.

The Chamber regards the current business tax as unequitable, regressive, and one which deters new investment, particularly in the commercial/distributive trade.

Haiti

Port Margot Population Complains of Magistrate

FL072217 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] In Port Margot, northern Haiti, the population is very concerned. They say Duvalierist methods are back in force, with unfounded accusations and dishonest denunciations being made by Magistrate (Amonius Pierre-Louis) against certain Port Margot youths. Our correspondent from Cap Haitien will furnish details.

[Correspondent (Gerard Mesidor)] [Passage omitted] Mr (Amonius Pierre-Louis), the president of the magistrates cartel that came to power in the 17 January elections, has begun to cause a lot of talk in Port Margot. During the campaign, this magistrate had promised the population that he would help it with the terrible problems it is encountering. After he took office, in circumstances familiar to everyone, he totally changed his stripes.

We have reports from Port Margot that Mr (Pierre-Louis) is out to torment all groups in Port Margot parish, be they grass-roots church groups, youth movements, or other groups working at evangelizing people in Port Margot parish.

These reports say that the Port Margot magistrate has labeled all the church groups communist. He is saying that when these groups meet with the priests, they are taking care of communist related business, and speaking evil about the government.

The last straw came when (Pierre-Louis) went to the sergeant at the Port Margot outpost and gave him a list of six members of the Port Margot grass-roots church so they could be arrested.

The sergeant did not obey the magistrate's order. He chose, instead, to summon one of the accused, Mr (Oge Etienne), who is the director of the presbytery school, to the casern. When (Etienne) arrived, the sergeant explained to him what was going on, and told him about all the accusations the magistrate had proferred against the group of six youths.

The magistrate did not stop at accusing the six youths. He also pointed his Judas finger at two priests—Father Petion, the parish priest of Ti Bourg, (?near) Port Margot, and Father Marcel, who is the director of Radio La Voix de l'Ave Maria.

The sergeant told (Etienne) that Magistrate (Pierre-Louis) said these priests were distributing weapons to the six youths so the youths could attack the casern in Port Margot.

We received three [number as heard] of the six persons accused in the studios of Radio Voix Ave Maria: (Oge Etienne), the director of the presbytery school; (Merovis Jean); and (Cesar) and (Lothaire Ture), two members of the Port Margot grass-roots church. Listen to what they said:

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker, in French] It was 0930, yesterday, 3, 4 April [dates as heard]. It was 0930 at the presbytery school. [speaker switches to Creole] I was teaching a class, substituting for a teacher

who was absent, when an adjutant arrived with a message for me. I saw that it was from the sergeant at the outpost, asking me to come to his office at 1000. I went. The sergeant was very courteous and very nice to me. He had me sit down and he explained why he had sent for me.

We six were accused of a bunch of things: of having organized antigovernment, communist meetings and of entertaining relations with Father Marcel. Father Marcel was allegedly to give us weapons so we could attack the casern. It was claimed that we said we could handle the casern's three soldiers and do them in in a minute. It was also claimed that we were telling the peasants the elections were going to be held all over again and that there are no leaders, no president, no senators, no deputies, no magistrates; that the elections were a mess and were going to be held all over again; and so forth.

When I heard all these accusations, I thanked the sergeant. I said: OK, we know we six are accused and we know what we are accused of. But, who is accusing us? [passage omitted]

In the course of conversation, he told me that the accuser had even written the deputy already, and so forth. So I said to myself: Ah! If he has written to the deputy, the accuser can be none other than the mayor, (Amonius Pierre-Louis).

(Pierre-Louis) had indeed written the deputy, saying that we were causing trouble in Port Margot. This is not the first time (Amonius Pierre-Louis) has done this kind of ugly thing. We know that he had written something against the priest in Petit Bourg, (?near) Port Margot, saying that the priest had preached for people not to pay taxes. Maybe the deputy will believe him! No one else will!

(Pierre-Louis) is a man who (?slanders people) and persecutes the grass-roots church. He has sworn to do away with everyone connected with the church. His problem with me is that he knows he has no moral credibility. I was a candidate running against him, before the elections, but then I dropped out. He swore he would eliminate me.

He knows that we have a group called Konpep, Collective Action Group of Port Margot Residents in Favor of Mass Education [Konbit Port Margotsyen Pou Edikasyon Popile]. He says we are troublemakers because he sees the work we are doing with the peasants. He sees how the grass-roots church opens the people's eyes. He has sworn, has stated, that he must eliminate all of us.

That is why he has now involved us in this business of weapons. And you know what kind of hassle this business of weapons can lead to, just now!

Like the good Duvalierist he is, he knows how to create incidents. Remember, Duvalier used to say: I know how to create events. At any moment [words indistinct] you will see him assembling the other macoutes, like himself, and having them come plant weapons and other such junk at someone's house and then come and conduct a search, so he can say: There, you see? See how they all have weapons at home? See how they are seeking to overthrow the government? And so forth. [end recording]

The accused summoned Magistrate (Pierre-Louis) to appear before the Court of Conciliation in Port Margot yesterday at 1000. We have a reporter on the scene so that we can follow developments and report accurately. In a future newscast, we hope to have a detailed report of how things went at the Court of Conciliation yesterday at 1000.

Before ending this report, we point out that the day before yesterday, the young men in question went to see the prefect in Limbe, who did not hesitate to tell them that ever since (Pierre-Louis) became mayor, he has been complaining to the prefect almost daily about the youth of Port Margot.

Thiotte Magistrate Accused

FL081215 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] It looks as if there is another magistrate causing problems in southeastern Haiti. A press release from LAPPH [League of Former Haitian Political Prisoners and Friends and Relatives of Missing Persons] states that LAPPH is very indignant to learn from its regional authorities in Thiotte of the tribulations its regional office is being subjected to by the authorities, especially by communal magistrate (Millery Pierre).

The LAPPH office had been closed for some time but its members decided to reopen it last week. A big rally was held on that occasion.

According to the press release, a few days later Mr (Millery Pierre), accompanied by three soldiers, burst in and declared that henceforth no meeting could be held without his authorization.

The LAPPH asks: Hasn't (Pierre) ever read Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ratified by Haiti? This article says everyone has the right to gather for peaceful purposes. The Constitution of 1987 also guarantees this same freedom in Article 31. Is this a return to repression? Is this what they call democracy?

The LAPPH note continues: We would like for the activities and the functioning of the Thiotte regional office and its members to remain unobstructed.

The LAPPH calls on all members to be vigilant and not allow themselves to be intimidated by macoute methods.

Director, Others at Nursing School Resign

FL082121 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1730 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Mrs (Emily Damier), the head of the National Nursing School, has resigned.

In a letter addressed to Public Health and Population Minister Dr Adrien Westerband, Mrs (Emily Damier) says, among other things—and we quote: I am resigning, Mr Minister, because in my opinion, the school, seen from the perspective of the coherent system that it constitutes, cannot look upon the students as being separate from the rest of the nursing hierarchy. Therefore, I cannot, at the end of the course of study, send certain obstinate women to the General Nursing Administration to have them registered, or to sign up to take the state examinations, when those students deliberately chose to insult the entire staff of this office and maintained this same aggressive attitude until recently.

I am resigning, Mr Minister, because as the director, I cannot ask certain teachers to teach or to guide and support certain students as long as relations remain sullied by rude insults and threats. [passage omitted]

We invite you to listen to Mrs (Emily Damier), explaining to us the origin of the crisis that shut down the National Nursing School for 11 months.

[Begin recording] [(Damier), speaking in Creole] [Passage omitted] People should be made aware of the fact that the real origin of the crisis was the fact that nine kids who flunked wanted to be passed. That is what constituted the origin of the crisis, period.

[Reporter] What do you mean, wanted to be passed?

[(Damier)] There is an examination to determine competence, an exam that can lead to the candidate's elimination. It is given at the nursing schools in Cap Haitien and Les Cayes, too. Kids failed in Cap Haitien and in Les Cayes, and they were eliminated. They left the school, and you never heard any more about it.

Here, nine students failed the test. A group stepped in to ask that these nine cases be reconsidered. That is what started the whole thing. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole at 1300 GMT on 8 April, in a report on the situation at the Nursing School, adds: "Absolutely reliable sources have informed us that people are resigning right and left at the National Nursing School of Port-au-Prince. We were told that six part-time and four full-time teachers have resigned. The assistant director, Mrs (Danielle Lemaire), has asked for a transfer."]

Jamaica

Prime Minister Seaga Reacts to Vogel Testimony

FL111613 Bridgetown CANA in English 1752 GMT 9 Apr 88

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, April 9, CANA—Prime Minister Edward Seaga says he and other officials are the subject of a smear campaign by convicted U.S. drug dealer Micheal Vogel, beecause of Jamaica's strong and successful anti-narcotics campaign.

But Seaga pledged to continue the drug fight, which has the support of the political opposition.

The prime minister, in a radio and television broadcast on Friday night, also announced that Jamaica had requested from Washington permission for its lawyers to question Vogel as to the veracity of his testimony before a U.S. Senate committee this week. [passage omitted]

The clear message from all this is that we are to expect retaliation which seeks either to attack or intimidate or malign those of us who are in the forefront of the campaign to eliminate dangerous drugs and drug trafficking, Seaga said.

In this regard, he linked Vogel, who has been in jail since 1986, to one Leigh Rich, who the Jamaican authorities took off a plane in the north coast city of Montego Bay in 1986 and handed over to U.S. marshalls on drug charges.

He said Jamaica's action was a major issue in the Rich trial, in which he was convicted. [passage omitted]

The prime minitser, who denied ownership of any property in the Cayman Islands, warned of the possibility of the kinds of power struggle and the commanding influence of drug dealers that has developed in countries such as Columbia if Jamaica did not take strong action early.

Said Seaga: If in Jamaica we become fearful either of attacks on our lives or reputations, we will fall into the same state of weakness which leaves the opening necessary for the drug barons to establish their power base.

The threats were real, Seaga said, recalling his charge two-and-a-half years ago that his life was threatened by a drug dealer. Since then the threats have gone as far as to include the kidnapping of my little son, Seaga said.

But these, and what he says is a deliberate play to weaken the effectiveness of the police force with the allegation against its chief, would not deter Jamaica, Seaga said.

The successful campaign in Jamaica which is in the forefront of all such campaigns in this region, will go on until this problem is completely wiped out. Let that be a clear message from this government.

Our commitment, indeed, is now strong and more resolute than before to ensure that Jamaica does not slide back to the days when it was for the drug dealers a haven, but rather that the success of our efforts will grow to ensure that it becomes their hell.

Trinidad and Tobago

Joint Approach to Tourism With Barbados Studied

FL082346 Bridgetown CANA in English 2305 GMT 8 Apr 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Excerpt] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 8, CANA— The tourism ministers of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago met on Friday to discuss a joint approach to tourism marketing.

Tourism is Barbados' main foreign currency earner but has only recently been earmarked by Trinidad and Tobago for development.

After his meeting with Trinidad's Ken Gordon, Wes Hall of Barbados told reporters the tripartite marketing of Trinidad, Tobago, and Barbados as a tourism package could get underway by the 1989 tourism season, if the proposal is approved.

A statement issued by the Trinidad Ministry of Tourism, headed by Ken Gordon, said that tourism officials from the two countries would be meeting over the next two months.

The statement said their terms of reference would be a review of tourism in both countries, exploration of an integrated marketing strategy using the three islands, development of an integrated information system, and a technical assistance exchange programme.

One other term of reference would be examination of the implications for airline, immigration, and other aspects of the tourism industry under such a package.

Hall said he hoped the co-operation in sporting and cultural events would link up with moves to increase trade and export co-operation being worked on by the respective ministers responsible for trade.

We are thinking in terms of a package whereby Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago can be, in a tripartite sort of way, marketed as a destination, Hall told a news conference held to launch Barbados 1988 tourism package in Trinidad.

Hall said such co-operation was the way forward for Caribbean tourism, a billion dollar industry.

Barbados and Trinidad, in this linkage, can open up the doors so that other Caribbean territories will see the benefit of a conesive force and not allow for any fragmentation, Hall said. When we go as separate territories to the EEC (European Economic Commission) or the OAS (Organisation of American States) for technical aid and things like that, it is necessary that we go with one voice. It is necessary that each territory is cognizant of the aims and aspirations of every island, he said. [passage omitted]

Salinas de Gortari on Foreign, Domestic Policy

PA120315 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish
7 Apr 88 pp 1-A, 23-A

[Report by Carlos A. Medina and Juan Ochoa Vidal]

[Text] Tapachula, Chiapas, 6 Apr—PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari affirmed here today that no country, regardless of how powerful it might be, has any right to meddle in the domestic affairs of Central America and Panama. He noted that when he becomes president he will not change Mexico's foreign policy because, he cautioned, national sovereignty cannot be taken for granted; it must be supported, strengthened, and promoted on a daily basis.

In stating his position on the Central American and Panamanian problems, Salinas de Gortari said the problems in that area are of a political nature and rejected military provocations and flirting with war among sister countries.

Speaking in this city on the Guatemalan border, a region that normally uses Guatemalan labor on its coffee plantations, Salinas de Gortari urged Mexican farm owners who hire Guatemalan workers to pay them fair prices, respect their rights, and not exploit them, so we may have the moral strength to demand the same kind of treatment for Mexicans immigrating to the United States.

The PRI candidate said if he becomes president he will continue respecting the right of political refuge and asylum and the right of Central Americans to enter and travel through Mexico as long as they respect our immigration laws and regulations.

This was stated by Salinas de Gortari during two meetings on development problems being faced in the southern border region. The first meeting took place at the Morelos public land area and the other in a social center in the city of Morelos, where the PRI candidate was told about the grave backwardness and social degradation that exists there.

Salinas de Gortari asked the farmers in Chiapas to give Central American workers who legally or illegally come to Mexico to work "the same kind of treatment we are demanding for our fellow countrymen."

He explained that Mexico has become a free and sovereign country because of the firmness with which Mexicans have defended the fatherland and, especially, because of its foreign policy. However, he cautioned: "Sovereignty cannot be taken for granted" if we do not support, promote, and strengthen it daily.

In response to complaints that many Chiapas residents are not allowed to cross the state border for the simple reason that they do not have an identification card, Salinas de Gortari said this is a reproachable and unconstitutional situation. "There is freedom of transit in Mexico and no one has the authority to violate the Constitution," he said. The PRI candidate added: Central Americans who come to our country to work or travel or who are passing through must also enjoy this right because in our country the right to move about without hindrance is sacred.

Many peasant organizations made dramatic charges about arbitrary legal abuses that are committed in Chiapas.

Salinas de Gortari stated: "The abuses that the people of the southern border region are enduring at the hands of both federal and state public security forces have reached intolerable limits and everybody is complaining about this."

In the midst of applause by peasants, Salinas de Gortari said if he comes to power he will take drastic measures to fight this unjust situation as well as the corruption that pervades customs and immigration services.

Salinas de Gortari admitted during a meeting in this city to discuss the integral development of the region that its backwardness is a result of a lack of productive options and he committed himself to designing an integral development program that will promote industrial expansion, the installation of factories that will supply material to electricity plants and oil refinerics, and a program to spark production on more than 60,000 hectares of land in Soconusco. He said he will work so the exploitation of regional natural resources results in benefits and not economic and social problems, as has occurred in other regions.

During his speech, Salinas de Gortari repeatedly touched on the subject of Mexico's foreign policy, and, in particular, bilateral relations between Mexico and Guatemala.

Salinas de Gortari committed himself to strengthening relations between Mexico and Guatemala because the strong ties that link both countries are undeniable, he said.

Regarding Mexico's Central American policy, Salinas de Gortari said he fully backs the communique recently issued by Presidents Miguel de la Madrid and Vinicio Cerezo stating the importance of a united Latin America. Salinas de Gortari said he is aware of the importance of Central Americans freely and sovereignly determining their political future; in the case of Panama, it is up to the Panamanians to resolve their own problems without intervention by any power.

Salinas de Gortari criticized attempts to resolve Central American problems through military confrontations, and called for the solution of regional problems through political dialogues and agreements.

Briefs

Secofi Office in GDR

Cologne, GDR, 6 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government inaugurated today in this GDR city an office that will operate under the Secretariat of Industry and Industrial Development [Secofi] to promote foreign investments and transference of European technology to Mexico. Adolfo Hegewisch, Mexican ambassador to the GDR, attended the inauguration ceremony of the first office Secofi has opened abroad. It was reported that, initially, the new Mexican office in Cologne will give priority to such areas as the automotive parts industry, the tourism infrastrucuture, electronics components, and capital goods. The countries with large investments in Mexico are the United States, the GDR, and Japan. [Text] [*FL091650 Mexico City NOTIMEX 0412 GMT 7 Apr 88*]

Belize

Senators To Attend IPU Meeting in Guatemala

FL080316 Belize City Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Three members of the National Assembly of Belize will depart on Sunday for Guatemala City. The delegation will be presided over by Senator Alfredo Martinez and his colleagues Mr Pedro Guerra Mena and Mr (Baldemar Castillo).

The Belizean delegation will attend the 79th interparliamentary conference that will begin Monday, 11 April, and will end on 16 April.

Belize is attending the international event in response to a cordial invitation extended in November by the Guatemalan interparliamentary group.

The inaugural ceremony, in which Belize will be represented, will be held on Monday, 11 April, and will be presided over by Vinicio Cerezo, president of the Republic of Guatemala.

The IPU is a world organization of legislators who discuss international problems which could be resolved through the intervention of regional parliaments. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Duarte Revokes Amnesty for Zona Rosa Prisoners

PA120228 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Apr 88 pp 3, 37

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, as Armed Forces commander, revoked the amnesty that had been granted to three extremists implicated in the killing of 13 people in the Zona Rosa.

The court martial determined that Jose Napoleon Duarte, as Armed Forces commander, should decide whether or not amnesty should be granted to William Celio Rivas, Miguel Angel Garcia, and Jose Abraham Dimas Aguilar, charged with killing six U.S. citizens, a Chilean, a Guatemalan, and five Salvadorans on 19 June 1985.

Jose Napoleon Duarte, as Armed Forces commander, sent the revocation order to the military court that had sent him the ruling so he could resolve it, in accordance with the powers invested in him by the military code.

Initially the three were granted amnesty by Dr Jorge Alberto Serrano, the original trial judge, a ruling appealed by the prosecuting attorney. Then the ruling was submitted to the military court, but later transferred to the Armed Forces commander, who will have the last word on the matter. Dr Jorge Alberto Serano declared that he cannot reject or accept the president's revocation, but if Duarte's ruling reaches the court, it is a fact and the accused will not be released.

Honduras

Azcona: Matta Deportation 'Violated Some Laws'

PA120430 Paris AFP in Spanish 0345 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (AFP)—Today Honduran President Jose Azcona admitted that his government "violated some laws" by deporting alleged drug trafficker Ramon Matta Ballesteros to the United States, media owners who met with the president today stated. Despite admitting that Matta's deportation violated the Constitution, Azcona said the action was carried out "to safeguard the physical and mental health of citizens."

"The president said Matta's presence in Honduras was dangerous because it was harming some aspects of life in the nation," Miguel Andonie, owner of Radio America, stated.

The media owners spoke today to President Azcona about the violent incidents that took place last Friday and Saturday, which occurred in reaction to the release of Honduran Matta to U.S. authorities and which caused the government to impose a state of siege. [passage omitted]

Andonie added that Azcona told them "the government is not afraid of or bothered by criticism, but he asked that neither insults nor slander be used and that anonymous calls to radio stations not be permitted." [passage omitted]

Comments on Press Freedom

PA120440 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2255 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo reiterated to the most important media owners that the government will respect freedom of the press, an official spokesman has told ACAN-EFE.

Azcona's press secretary, Lisandro Quesada, has said that executives from radio and television stations and newspapers were told that the administration believes that the difference between "the country's interest and illegitimate interests" should be understood.

Today the Honduran president called the media owners together to analyze the events that took place between Tuesday and Friday of last week in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. [passage omitted]

Quesada said the media has the legal and moral obligation to tell the citizens the truth, "otherwise," he noted, "the democratic system of life and government we have will be eroded little by little and we will end up having a totalitarian leftist regime that only a minority wants."

The media representatives told the Honduran president that they agree that the country must be "properly guided" and that they will tirelessly work in this direction, the official government spokesman said. [passage omitted]

The atmosphere in the Honduran capital is one of apparent calm, but there are uncommon military movements going on day and night throughout the city. [passage omitted]

Government Denies Deal With U.S. on Matta

PA111540 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1120 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] In view of the false reports broadcast by a radio network, which was not this station, on 7 April, and published the following day by EL TIEMPO with the title: United States To Ignore Narco-Military Men in Exchange for Matta—saying that the proposal was made to President Jose Azcona by former U.S. Ambassador John Dimitri Negroponte—the Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Repubic clarifies:

Former Ambassador Negroponte's visit, accompanied by Ambassador Everett Briggs, to President Azcona was a courtesy visit, and drug traffic was not discussed at all during the visit.

Reports that President Azcona has in his hands a list of alleged Honduran narco-military men is completely false because no one—nationals or foreigners, or any government—have provided any such list.

Such slanders are part of the psychological war implemented by groups interested in creating a climate of uncertainty and distress to disrupt the Honduran family morale and the democratic structures of the Republic, of which the Honduran Armed Forces are a fundamental part.

[Signed] Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

Government Suspends Classes at All Levels

PA111419 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0315 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (DPA)—Tonight President Jose Azcona's government reported that it has decided to suspend classes at all school levels to prevent new outbreaks of the violence that shook the country last week.

Education Minister Elisa Valle de Martinez Pavetti and presidential spokesman Lisandro Quesada told DPA that the measure affects university, high school, middle school, elementary school, and preschool students.

University and high school students have been staging street demonstrations against the government and the U.S. diplomatic mission in Tegucigalpa since Thursday.

The measure affects over 500,000 students throughout the country, as it includes private schools.

This is the first time this decade that the government has suspended classes at all levels to cope with antigovernment protests.

Human Rights Group President's Home Attacked

PA111324 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0129 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (DPA)—Today it was revealed in Tegucigalpa that a house and a clinical laboratory owned by Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the opposition Honduran Human Rights Committee (CODEH), were machinegunned yesterday.

Yesterday Custodio Lopez, an untiring critic of the government and the Armed Forces, charged that his residence in downtown Tegucigalpa, as well as his clinical laboratory, had been shot at by individuals wearing civilian clothes. He blamed the government for the attack. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

RN Cease-Fire Zone 'Modus Operandi' Proposal

PA120009 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Apr 88 p 6

["Proposal by the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) on the Modus Operandi"]

[Text] In conformity with point 2 of the Sapoa agreement of 23 March 1988, the Nicaraguan Resistance proposes to the constitutional Government of Nicaragua the following modus operandi, which will be in effect during the truce period in the areas determined by mutual agreement.

I. General Provisions.

1. The current MO (modus operandi) will be in effect in the specific areas of the size determined by mutual agreement in conformity with point 2 of the Sapoa agreement.

2. The MO is governed by the agreements that will be in effect in the specific regions with the main objective of fully guaranteeing the integrity and safety of the combatants.

3. The MO will be in effect for a period of 60 days, beginning 1 April, during which time a definitive cease-fire will be negotiated. The definitive cease-fire will occur jointly with the democratization and other commitments contemplated in Esquipulas II.

II. Location and Security of Troops.

4. During the first 15 days of the term agreed to, and once the Nicaraguan Government troops have been evacuated from the areas agreed to, the RN troops will be located in the specified areas. Both troops will halt offensive operations. The Nicaraguan Government troops that operate in the vicinity of the mutually designated areas will reconcentrate in jointly determined areas.

5. The military, paramilitary, security, and other forces, as well as civil and political administrative personnel at the service of the Nicaraguan Government or its decentralized agencies, will leave the areas where the RN forces are to be concentrated. These areas will be mutually designated and outlined in the attached map appended as annex A to the integral part of this agreement.

6. The personnel mentioned in point 5, as well as the vehicles, boats, or aircraft owned by or at the service of the Nicaraguan Government, cannot enter the zones under any circumstances except in cases previously agreed upon.

7. The settlements and cooperatives located in the areas where the RN forces will be located will be demilitarized.

8. The RN units will enter the cease-fire zones agreed upon with their complete outfit of arms, ammunition, and communications equipment, retaining all their military equipment during the truce period. The RN will be allowed to make periodic replenishments of arms, ammunition, and war materiel that have been destroyed, damaged, wasted, or depleted during the truce.

9. The Nicaraguan Government cannot receive material or military assistance from governments or foreign enterprises during the truce period. To this end, the Verification Commission will deploy observers at ports, airports, and points of border access to the Republic of Nicaragua.

10. The government will deactivate and remove mines and other devices placed in the zones and on access roads, and also provide maps to the RN and the Verification Commission to facilitate entry into the agreed upon zones. The Nicaraguan Government will immediately do this. Mines placed in neutral areas and on roads and paths leading to civilian towns will also be deactivated and removed by the Nicaraguan Government with the RN's and Verification Commission's full knowledge.

11. The Nicaraguan Government will not suspend the basic services that exist in the zones.

12. To prevent incidents, the Nicaraguan Government has stated that it will not carry out troop movements in the vicinity of the zones, and it will not have artillery equipment [located near the zones] at a distance less than their maximum range.

13. The Resistance troops and the EPS will be allowed to conduct military training as long as it is not carried out on the borders of or near the zones.

III. Location and Security of Civilians.

14. Residents of areas from which the RN forces withdraw will not be subjected to intimidation, repression, or legal action because of their relationship with the Resistance forces. The Verification Commission will guarantee strict compliance with this point.

15. The people displaced because of the war will be allowed to return with full guarantees to their places of origin in the zones where the Resistance forces are located. The authorities will establish coordination methods for that purpose.

16. The RN will authorize visits to their zones by fighters' relatives, medical and religious personnel, national and international reporters, and any type of humanitarian groups. The government will not oppose these visits.

17. The civilian population must be allowed to receive supplies and have freedom of movement, freedom of work, and freedom of trade, as well as communication and transportation in all the zones.

IV. The Issuance of Supplies to Nicaraguan Resistance Troops.

18. Supplies for the RN will be turned over to a commercial company for transportation to the zones. The RN will inform the Verification Commission of every shipment 24 hours ahead of time.

19. The resistance will have exclusive control of all supply-related issues within the zones.

V. Communications.

20. Land, air, sea, and river paths highlighted on the adjoining map (Annex B), established for the purpose of receiving supplies, will be respected.

21. The Resistance forces will inform the Verification Commission no less than 24 hours prior to the movement of vehicles, ships, or airplanes, indicating the path that will be used, and also providing the mode of transportation's description and registration number.

22. These paths will be used by Resistance personnel, who at all times will have access to their troops. In these cases, the information given the Verification Commission will include names, description, and registration numbers of their means of transportation and date and hour.

23. The Nicaraguan Government promises to guarantee and not in any way hinder the transportation and transit of the people, crews, and materiel mentioned in points 21 and 22.

24. To facilitate the flow of supplies to the Resistance troops, the Nicaraguan Government will not object to the use, if necessary, of part of other states' territory.

25. Due to the need for constant and permanent communication to ensure the command and control of the Resistance troops, the Nicaraguan Government promises not to disturb or in any way interfere with RN communications.

26. In the event of accidents or damage to vehicles, aircraft, or boats that occur outside of the zones, the people and material on board will be released immediately to the authorities closest to the RN. They can evacuate them, without any restrictions on the part of the Nicaraguan Government authorities, to the place deemed most convenient.

27. For purposes of security, the methods regarding the crossing or circulation in the RN zones of people, vehicles, boats, or civil aircraft will be communicated by the RN to the Verification Commission.

VI. Settlement of Conflicts.

28. The Verification Commission will certify within the shortest possible time the fulfillment of points 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 22, and 25.

29. During the truce, the combatants of the belligerent parties will maintain their status and are subject to the authority of their organizations. The individuals captured during the period of the truce will be considered prisoners of war and their status will be made known to the Verification Commission within 24 hours at the latest.

30. The Nicaraguan Government is committed to strictly applying the Geneva convention and its additional protocols during the truce. The RN will observe such provisions in the aspects that correspond to it as a belligerent force.

31. The Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the Permanent Commission of Human Rights of Nicaragua will have immediate access to the prisoners. For this purpose the parties will submit to them a list of their respective prisoners and places where they are being held.

32. The conflicts that may arise during the truce will be resolved by mixed commissions of the belligerent forces, composed of three members from each side. There will be one mixed commission per zone and these will have 12 hours to resolve the dispute. After this term expires without a solution, the matter will be taken before the special commission, which will be composed of three members designated by each of the belligerent forces, who will have 24 hours to resolve it. If a settlement is not reached, the matter will pass to the Verification Commission, which must resolve it in 24 hours.

VII. Verification Commission.

33. The Verification Commission, in conformity with the Sapoa agreement of 23 March 1988, will be composed of the president of the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua, his eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and His Excellency Ambassador Joao Clemente Baena Soares, OAS secretary general.

34. The Verification Commission will present to the parties, before 15 April, the statute and work proceedings.

Tinoco Invites RN Investigative Delegation

PA111930 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1825 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Communique No 24 issued by the Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on 11 April]

[Text] We inform the Nicaraguan people that Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has sent a letter to Roberto Ferrey, secretary of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] directorate, in Miami, Florida.

The letter states: To accelerate the preparations for the high-level meeting scheduled for 15 April, we propose that you immediately send a delegation to visit the places that have been proposed as sites for the meeting to inspect their condition.

This delegation should be in Managua no later than 12 April and will be received by Tourism Institute Minister Herty Lewites.

The Nicaraguan Government proposes that on 13 or 14 April, an RN technical military commission should come to Managua to meet with a government technical military commission to prepare for the 15 April meeting.

These commissions would be in charge of taking care of pending matters that would finally be discussed at the high-level meeting. The government technical military commission will be headed by Major General Joaquin Cuadra, vice defense minister; Brigade Commander Lenin Cerna, vice interior minister; Lieutenant Colonel Javier Carrion McDonough, 2d chief of the EPS general

chiefs of staff; and Major Ricardo Wheelock, chief of military intelligence. These technical military commissions could be accompanied by a civilian.

Since the objective of the 15 April meeting, according to the Sapoa agreements, is to negotiate all the matters regarding a definite cease-fire, it is premature to conduct any other type of activity beyond the objectives of this meeting.

In any case, any other type of activity could be studied at the meeting if the main objectives are met.

The constitutional Government of Nicaragua will guarantee and will assume the responsibility for the security of this commission and will grant the necessary safe conducts.

[Signed] Sincerely, Victor Hugo Tinoco

Signed in Managua on 11 April 1988

[Signed] Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency

Carrion on Sapoa Talks, Work of Ministry
PA111645 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Commander Luis Carrion, industry and commerce minister, has said the defeat of the Washington mercenary forces was achieved because of the heroism shown by the workers, peasants, and students. Carrion also said that as long as a cease-fire is not reached, we cannot put our rifles to rest:

[Begin Carrion recording] Our political, diplomatic, and legal actions would not have had any chance of success were it not for the heroism shown by the Nicaraguan people. Despite the progress made by peace and despite the Sapoa agreements, peace has not yet been achieved. The forces trying to sabotage the peace process we have started are very powerful.

The United States is trying to sabotage the peace process; the most extremist sectors of the counterrevolutionary forces are trying to sabotage the peace process; and the imperialist allies in Central America are also trying to sabotage the peace process.

It was not by chance that in this last meeting in Sapoa to discuss a cease-fire and the procedural aspects, no definite agreement was reached. Obviously the counterrevolutionary delegation tried to delay the negotiations and tried to prevent a serious agreement so they could indefinitely extend this process. It was also not by chance that a document about an alleged meeting of the FSLN National Directorate was being circulated. That document had been created in a special CIA laboratory. I would like to note that following the signing of the Esquipulas agreements, a similar document had been circulated in Central America. In this latter case, I believe it was meant to be a proposal made by the [words indistinct] to the FSLN National Directorate.

There have been other large quantities of forged documents that the CIA, with all of its resources, has circulated in Nicaragua and abroad. The CIA did this to confuse international public opinion about the revolutionary government's true positions. This is nothing more than concrete proof of some of the enemy's efforts to sabotage the peace process.

That is why we cannot suspend our vigilance; we cannot put our rifles to rest until we have achieved peace. As long as a definite cease-fire agreement is not in effect, we will be ready for war. [end recording]

The revolutionary leader said a mixed economy is guaranteed by his ministry. Carrion added that state and private producers must produce efficiently and take initiatives:

[Begin Carrion recording] We are convinced that a mixed economy and political pluralism are possible and necessary for the country's life. In exercising my duties, I will try to be consistent with these principles, as specified in the Constitution.

This will be a national ministry; that is, a ministry for all sectors. We will not only serve as an administrator for state enterprises. We will support all efforts and initiatives beneficial to the nation, whether they come from state enterprises or private producers.

Above all, we are interested in an efficient administration, rational use of resources, quality of production or services, initiatives to export more, and an overall increase in production and availability of services to the Nicaraguan people.

With this in mind, we will work together with all others who make up the revolutionary government to create the best possible conditions to ensure an adequate development of production and service activities, even during the serious crisis we are experiencing.

Of course, nobody should forget that we have a popular and revolutionary state. This means that the interest of a majority of the working people will always guide each of our decisions. We must not forget that the time when a small but politically and economically powerful minority imposed its will on the large, exploited, and downtrodden masses is now history and behind us forever. [end recording]

Details on Operations Against Contra Camps

'Danto-88' Preparations

PA070345 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
5 Apr 88 pp 1, 4

["First part" of article by Guillermo Cortes Dominguez: "This Is How the 'Danto' Operation Was Prepared"]

[Excerpts] San Andres de Bocay, Jinotega—Nothing obvious foreshadowed the danger implicit in the reconnaissance flight over the contra camps located in the Coco River basin—that splendid river.

Inside the aircraft, the camera began to run: Click! And everything or almost everything that was down there was neatly recorded in what would become, from a military viewpoint, the most beautiful photographs in the world in the eyes of enthusiastic EPS chiefs. [passage omitted]

However, the EPS High Command needed complete information to begin the action.

For this reason, early in October 1987, the aircraft, equipped with cameras, took off. This aircraft confirmed and verified the information the Intelligence Service already had.

The High Command did not have to deliberate long to decide what to do. Everything pointed to the launching of an attack on those camps; however, the EPS military campaign in regions one, six, and five prevented that action at that time.

However, something had to be done. It had to be a harsh blow that would not affect the military efforts that were being made in other directions.

Several days after the photographic exploration, Antonov-26 planes were secretly sent to northern Nicaragua. Lieutenant Colonel Javier Pichardo, commander of the Sandinist Air Force and the Sandinist Antiaircraft Defense (FAS-DAA), disclosed that "in four raids, the planes knocked out the contra camps, dropping 60 tons of bombs on them." [passage omitted]

The PUFE's [subhead]

Several Small Special Forces Units [Pequenas Unidades de Fuerzas Especiales, PUFE] of the EPS operating in the Amaka-Bocay area provided on-site confirmation of the damage caused by the bombings on the contra installations.

"During November and December, members of the General Staff [Estado Mayor General, EMG] discussed the initial ideas that would subsequently become the 'Danto-88' operation," Lieutenant Colonel Javier Carrion, second EMG chief, noted.

Following a tactic that has previously yielded results, Sandinist military officers discussed the idea of opening a new, permanent combat front that would maintain constant pressure on contra camps in Bocay. [passage omitted]

What Is Left of the Contras [subhead]

Then, the mercenaries again transferred all their things [tiliches] to the border. Therefore, what is virtually left of the counterrevolution, including their so-called Strategic Command and their Military Training Center [Centro de Instruccion Militar], remained in the Mukuwas region. [passage omitted]

The discussion within the EPS' EMG, Carrion said, revolved around the drafting of the 1988 summer campaign plan. The EPS originally thought of sending Border Guard troops to stop the mercenary infiltration. [passage omitted]

It Will Start in January [subhead]

The EMG did not rush. Carrion continued: "From the beginning, we agreed that the operation would not be launched overnight. We agreed that it would be launched to the extent that all participating factors were coordinated."

The fact that a large contra force had left contra settlements in Bocay to attack the mining towns of Siuna, Bonanza, and Rosita was a factor that was taken into account when the time came to make the big decision.

The preparations began in January and increased in February. Meanwhile, EPS special troops, which had been ambushed at several points along the Coco River, carried out six or seven actions to locate and destroy the contras.

The Preparations [subhead]

Final calculations were made in February, and the necessary steps were taken under direct EMG command.

Carrion explained: "This is unusual because usually the EMG draws up the general plans and then everything is turned over to the military region where the operation is going to be carried out."

In this case, the EMG became directly involved even in the specific plans and the direct command of combat troops through its second chief, Lt Col Carrion, who directed a command group that formed part of the operations command post.

The command group was composed of officers of the Operations Political Directorate and intelligence, ground artillery, antiaircraft, rearguard, communications, engineering, and other sections. [passage omitted]

Rearguard [subhead]

Captain Hugo Torres said that the rearguard had to guarantee the uniforms, food, and other necessities of the more than 4,000 troops who were to directly participate in combat. [passage omitted]

More Than 1,000 Tons Were Transported [subhead]

Everything had to be sent from Managua to Bonanza by land. Torres said that long caravans of up to as many as 50 vehicles had to make four complicated trips that lasted 3 days each to carry 120,000 gallons of aviation gasoline and more than 1,000 tons of various goods. [passage omitted]

Radio Technical Logistics [subhead]

In late February, Lt Col Pichardo received orders from the High Command to incorporate the FAS-DAA into the operation.

The preparation of the aviation operation is very complex. The fuel had to be transported and its quality had to be guaranteed. Areas had to be cleared in the mountains for the landing of airborne troops.

In addition, weapons and radio technical equipment for the protection of helicopters and airplanes had to be guaranteed. The radar and the antiaircraft defensive systems also had to be protected, Pichardo stressed.

Several auxiliary detachments were included in the operation, as was the Heavy Transportation Squadron [Escuadron de Transporte Pesado], comprising Antonov-26 planes.

Large Air Strike [subhead]

These planes were to deliver a large air strike. At the same time, all radio technical troops had been placed on combat readiness since 2 March. Special emphasis was placed on these troops, because the High Command foresaw Honduran support for the contras through its F-5's.

Major Aldo Briones, who directed the operation on-site, confirmed that a total of 19 helicopters and 5 An-26 planes were ready to enter into action.

On 29 February, the ground artillery troops were informed of the mission, and they had to accelerate their preparations because there was hardly any time.

To prepare themselves, they looked at photographs of the contra camps to analyze the terrain and to determine the type of artillery support equipment they were going to use.

According to Captain Bayardo Rodriguez Ruiz, chief of the EPS artillery section, they decided to use a battery of 107-mm rocket launchers, another battery of Grapp-1P rockets, and two small units of both types.

First Lieutenant Samuel Conto Aburto, chief of the Sandinist Navy's Special Mission Detachment, received the order to join the 'Danto' operation, thus beginning the participation of the Sandinist Navy [Marina de Guerra Sandinista] in this type of action by various EPS contingents. [passage omitted]

Combat Troops [subhead]

The General Staff decided to use a combat force of some 4,000 soldiers, for which it chose five Unconventional Warfare Battalions (BLI), one battalion of permanent troops, one Infantry Reserve Battalion (BIR), and several PUFE's, Major Filemon Aviles explained.

Initially it was thought that each unit would be under the command of the advance command, but then another idea emerged that was finally implemented.

Two combat groups were established: The principal one under the command of young Major Santiago Fajardo, composed of the Rufo Marin, Juan Pablo Umanzor, Santos Lopez, and Francisco Estrada BLI's; and another under the leadership of Majors Luis Lopez and Julio Ochoa and composed of the Juan Gregorio Colindres BLI, the 73d Atlantic Battalion, and the 4009 BIR.

The PUFE would act as explorers for both contingents.

The direct command of both groups' troops was under Maj Filemon Aviles, who, in turn, was under the command of Lt Col Javier Carrion, who, in turn, was under the command of Major General Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the EPS General Staff.

All the battalions arrived in Bonanza at the end of February. The unit chiefs "smelled" that something big was going to happen and, based on the general direction of their gathering place, "guessed" that it was to happen to the contras in San Andres de Bocay.

However, they did not have all the information on the 'Danto-88' operation. It was not until a few hours before activating the great offensive on 1 March that they were informed of the huge task.

Captain Julio Portocarrero Arguello, chief of the political education section of the Propaganda Directorate of the EPS Political Directorate, recalled the atmosphere on that day.

That 1 March, national journalists' day, was the dawn, the beginning. There was much tension and a marked, overflowing optimism, which would later be justified by results. "Everything was ready," Maj Aviles recalled.

Tomorrow: On the lookout for the contras' strategic command.

Operation Described

PA072144 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Apr 88 pp 1, 4

["Second and final part" of article by Guillermo Cortes Dominguez]

[Excerpt] San Andres de Bocay, Jinotega—Thousands of men; more than 1,000 tons of supplies; hundreds of land, air, and sea vessels; dozens of medium-caliber artillery weapons; and many other supplies had arrived in Bonanza, at the location where the operation "Danto-88" command post had been established with utmost secrecy.

How was this possible?

Such a movement, in a country so small that it is carefully monitored each second with the magnifying glasses of sophisticated CIA instruments, was not discovered.

This was quite a surprise. The secret had been kept right under the contras' noses, because the first clashes had already taken place, and they could have no idea of the magnitude of what was about to happen.

This led to terrible tactical errors, which prevented the contras from creating or maintaining an adequate defense program within their camp system on the border.

Once again, John Moderno, CIA station chief in Nicaragua, was caught off-base by the Sandinists.

They had been deceived. "The EPS General Staff (EMG) developed a series of actions to disguise the operation and successfully executed what has been described as the Secret Troop Command," Lieutenant Colonel Javier Carrion said, unable to conceal his satisfaction.

Some of the combat troops arrived in Bonanza under the guise of being reinforcements to protect the people, in view of the counterrevolutionary attack in October. Other troops were mobilized with the alleged mission of attending an important event on 26 February, Militia Day, in Rosita.

Disguising operation "Danto-88," Carrion added, also included arrangements for communications equipment, vulnerable to detection by the CIA radioelectronic espionage system, to broadcast false information regarding Sandinist troop movements.

The radio stations of the numerous battalions participating in the operation constantly reported clashes in various parts of the country, when in reality they were not in those areas.

In addition to this, it was arranged that the troops' passage through the towns of Siuna and Bonanza was to be carried out at night. Even government authorities and political supporters in Bonanza viewed the troop movement as something else and were only informed of the truth at the last moment. Everything was ready.

"D-Day" [subhead]

The Small Special Forces Units were already moving about in Amaka and San Andres de Bocay when the much-awaited "D-Day" arrived.

These fighters prepared the small plazas and guaranteed protection for the disembarkment of helicopter-transported troops at a site, the exact location of which was carefully concealed.

Thousands of well-armed men, carrying up to 800 rounds, cold rations, mortar grenades, and some of them with 82-mm base plates, were taken on 2 and 3 March by helicopter to a location near Lomas de Aguacapismo, between Amaka and Bonanza, said Major Aldo Briones of the Sandinist Air Force and Air Defense.

The helicopter transport took 2 days. On 4 March, the two tactical combat groups advanced toward Amaka. The disembarkation of the secret helicopter was totally overlooked by the contras.

At 1300 on 8 March, International Women's Day—to whom operation "Danto-88" was dedicated—the first group arrived in Amaka, and a few hours later the second group arrived. In both cases, not a single shot was fired, and a slow, difficult, and tedious clandestine hike began through harsh, almost virgin, and terribly hostile terrain.

The BLI Chiefs [subhead]

There was such total control of the area that a considerable number of troops bathed in the Amaka River. The contras had abandoned their positions in the area, leaving behind jungle boots, equipment, and food, including some Honduran "La Vaquita" milk, which the fighters liked very much.

BLI Chiefs Santos Lopez, Juan Gregorio Colindres, Juan Pablo Umanzor, and Rufo Marin; Captains Jose Ramon Berrios Rivera, Jose Antonio Estrada Garcia, and Carlos Gonzalez Gonzalez; and First Lieutenant Bayardo Rostran Acuna detailed their troops' movements.

The explosion of two mines announced the beginning of the first clashes. A sapper from the Juan Pablo Umanzor BLI and a soldier from the Francisco Estrada Battalion were wounded.

On 9 March, the troops received food supplies from helicopters, which landed without any setbacks in Amaka. The roar of the helicopters reached the contras, and only then did they perceive the Sandinists' presence, but they had no idea—as they never did—of the magnitude of the operation.

In this first phase of operation "Danto-88," group two, headed by Lopez and Ochoa, assumed top leadership with the intention of safeguarding the troops of group one, which was really the leading force.

Group two would weaken the contras' forward defense lines and attract the contra camps' defense forces, thus facilitating entry into the camps by the fresh forces from group one.

When the contras heard that the helicopters were disembarking troops in Amaka, they believed it was only an artillery unit. [passage omitted]

PLI Paper Raps Government, Lauds Contra Stand

PA111818 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2107 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Managua, 10 Apr (EFE)—Today the liberal weekly PASO A PASO said that although the rebels have taken a patriotic step by agreeing to temporarily shift their struggle from the military to the political side, the Nicaraguan Government persists in not complying with the Sapoa agreements.

The publication of the opposition Independent Liberal Party [PLI] states that 3 weeks after the peace accords were signed, the Sandinist authorities have not demonstrated a political disposition to abide by the commitments signed.

According to the weekly, in addition to the government's inflexibility, the Sandinists have spurned the opinions of the opposition parties, which have been talking with the government representatives to implement an orderly law without loopholes.

PASO A PASO recommends that the government take a flexible posture, and it invited it to abandon its arrogance and become trustworthy again.

The paper stresses that the government will pay a high price for its intransigency in the form of very great, almost irreversible, political harm at the international level.

Conversely, the paper of the PLI—the second most important opposition force in the Assembly—lauds the contras' position, which the paper feels is a highly positive and constructive step.

The weekly points out that the government, in a corresponding action, should democratize the country and radically change its political and economic stance.

In the PASO A PASO article, the Liberals recommend that the Sandinists accept the demands of the 14 opposition parties, thus proving the government's disposition to democratize Nicaragua.

The government and opposition parties recently agreed to form a commission to study the 17 Constitution amendments that the parties bloc proposed several months ago.

The opposition wants the government to substantially change the Constitution promulgated on 9 January 1987 during a public ceremony attended by Peruvian President Alan Garcia.

Honduran Acts Against Protesters Violate Pact

PA092202 Paris AFP in Spanish 0728 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Managua, 8 Apr (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Government has "regretted" the incidents that took place last night [7 April] in the area near the U.S. Consulate in Tegucigalpa.

The Nicaraguan Government also criticized the "indiscriminate and disproportionate use" of force by "armed authorities" against the demonstrators. The demonstration ended with the deaths of two people. The U.S. Consulate offices suffered extensive damage.

In a communique issued tonight in Managua, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said that the actions [by the Honduran authorities] "constitute violations" of the peace agreement signed by the five Central American presidents in August and ratified in January.

Managua added that "the actions particularly run counter to the obligation each state has to respect human rights, chiefly the right to life, to physical well-being, to public demonstrations, and to freedom of expression."

"This sort of situation highlights the urgent need for the Honduran Government to fully, faithfully, and immediately respect all the obligations that derive from the agreement, which was signed by the Central American presidents in order to achieve a just and lasting peace in Central America," the communique noted.

New Social Christian Party Inaugurated

PA111944 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Now there are three Social Christian parties. This weekend, Agustin Jarquin Anaya was elected president of a new Social Christian Party; Dr Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro heads another Social Christian Party; and there is the Social Christian Party headed by Eric Ramirez, which is the one with the international recognition of the Christian Democracy and the official recognition of the National Council of Political Parties.

Eric Ramirez, president of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, inaugurated the new party headquarters in San Juan de Limay. Ramirez said in San Juan de Limay that the Social Christian Party will rule Nicaragua in the future.

Briefs

Ruiz on 1988 Aid

This morning Commander Henry Ruiz said that 80 percent of the foreign cooperation Nicaragua will receive in 1988 will come from socialist countries, although some Western countries have increased their assistance. Ruiz, head of Nicaragua's Foreign Cooperation Ministry, said that arrangements have been made to receive approximately $300 million from the USSR, GDR, Bulgaria, Poland, and other countries, thus guaranteeing petroleum supplies. He concluded that cooperation from Western Europe, especially the Nordic countries, has increased recently. [Text] [*PA081514 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Apr 88*]

Panama

Noriega 'Will Not Budge' From Country

PA120131 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0010 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, 11 Apr (REUTER)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panamanian strongman, said he will not budge from his country despite the U.S. Government's pressures for him to resign, and he threatened to imprison one of President Ronald Reagan's principal advisers.

"They will not make me budge from Panama," he stated in an interview with a Chilean "freelance" reporter published today in a local magazine with limited circulation.

"Panamanians will not take one step back. And if Reagan sends his secretary (Elliott) Abrams now, let him send him. I am waiting to imprison him," he added.

He said the inhabitants of his country, which has been shaken for almost 1 year by a deep political crisis, are struggling "to death to defend our dignity. And the canal will be ours, regardless of whether Mr Reagan or his successor have a heart attack."

The interview was published in the magazine "VISA MAS," which is a free monthly publication for clients of a credit card firm. The interviewer, Elizabeth Subercaseux, said she reached the general by passing his guard disguised as a soldier.

"I am a human man. I have a heartfelt love for humanity," Noriega told her.

He added he will imprison Abrams for accusing Noriega of being a drug trafficker, "and that is not true."

"I will not subject myself to any U.S. court. I do not plan to budge from my country. The U.S. Government, to wash its hands with holy water, is trying to impose a democracy here with its drugs and its Irangates. That to me is really dirty."

Indirectly alluding to Reagan, he said a respectable president "does not become an arms trafficker, behind the back of his people."

"And afterward, he comes out made up on television asking for forgiveness. But at the same time he asks the Congress for millions of dollars to continue to bleed the Nicaraguan people. Do you know what this is called? This is called imperialism, yes, madam, and that is immoral. That is called killing and a lack of humanity."

Noriega, who admitted owning a building and several mansions in Panama City, was skeptical about the Torrijos-Carter Treaties being fulfilled with the departure of all U.S. troops from Panama by 31 December 1999.

"What I think is that they will do everything possible not to comply with it. They will accuse us of selling gold to Moscow. They will accuse us of being communists. They will accuse us of being drug traffickers. They will accuse us of being a threat to peace in the region," he added.

He disclosed that in 1985, U.S. Admiral John Poindexter—also connected to the Iran-contra case—asked Panama to quit the Contadora peace-keeping group and strengthen the anti-Sandinist guerrillas.

"I told him: Look, Poindexter, Panama will remain nonaligned, and I will tell you something else: I myself will be in charge of convincing Commander Ortega to go to Esquipulas...The Yankees did not like my answer. Poindexter denounced me to Ronald Reagan and told him I was crazy. Then, the cavalry came for us."

Noriega accused the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of assassinating a Panamanian health minister in order to later say that "I had committed the crime."

He added that U.S. State Department representatives asked him to leave and that his extradition would not be requested if he traveled to Spain.

Noriega said he answered: "I will not budge from here. We are ready to talk, but without pressures or impositions of any sort."

Comments on Situation

PM120944 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Apr 88 p 7

[Report on interview with Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega by Bertrand de la Grange in Panama City; date not given]

[Excerpts] Panama—"Ah! If I had a crystal ball I could tell you what is going to happen here." This remark came after our interview had been in progress for almost an hour, and for the first time it brought a smile to General Manuel Antonio Noriega's face. The smile gave way to a burst of laughter when he was asked whether he would prefer to live in peaceful retirement rather than to be in the midst of the storm that has shaken Panama for the past 10 months. "Oh, yes!" he said. "I would like to be somewhere else!"

Gen Noriega is prepared to leave but he refuses to be pushed out. "Foreigners," he said, "find it difficult to understand our mentality. This is a struggle that we have been waging for a long time against the American presence in our country. It is not a personal battle but that of a people and a nation. It is a country's future that is at stake."

Gen Noriega, who maintained excellent relations with the United States until last year (his adversaries claimed that he cooperated regularly with the CIA for 20 years), has in recent months become a champion of extreme nationalism. He is convinced that President Reagan, who has always opposed the 1977 treaty, is trying to undermine the agreement on the canal and to maintain the American bases.

"The U.S. attitude is very suspect," Gen Noriega said. "We started having problems with it the moment we denounced violations of the treaty, when we pursued an independent and nonaligned Third World policy on the world scene, and especially when we refused to take part in a military intervention in Nicaragua to overthrow the Sandinist regime. The United States wants to rewrite history by annulling the treaties, imposing a government controlled by itself, and challenging the social gains acquired since 1968"—the date when populist troops under General Omar Torrijos seized power. [passage omitted]

"Would you be prepared to leave if your departure could put an end to the crisis and to the population's suffering?" This question made Gen Noriega start: "I refuse to answer the question," he said, at first. Then, visibly irritated, he added: "If the people are suffering it is because of the United States, not because of me."

He appeared depressed at times, but he became combative again when asked questions that irritated him, especially those concerning his role in drug trafficking: "The problem is not here," he said, "but in the United States, the consumer country. It is there that the drugs are paid for. There are countries that produce drugs and those that consume them. The other countries, such as Panama, are transfer points."

Weapons Distributed to Civilians [subhead]

Gen Noriega admitted that the very liberal legislation governing Panama's international financial center—the largest in Latin America—facilitated such transactions, but he added: "The money was not invested here.... So you cannot say that drug money was laundered here. We were only a stage in a process controlled by the United States."

With regard to Panama as a financial center, Gen Noriega said: "We should follow Hong Kong's example and authorize the circulation of several strong currencies to facilitate trade, which is the foundation of our economy. Be that as it may, the international financial center has had its day and the present crisis has finished it. The United States was behind a banking center and it was the United States that decided to dismantle it. This operation lies within the framework of the policy of an economic power, which moves its pawns for the sake of its own interests."

When reminded that Panama is currently very isolated internationally and that its sole support has come from Cuba and Nicaragua, Gen Noriega replied that this should not be regarded as a slide toward a communist system—a charge made by the opposition, that is, basically, by business circles. "Panamanians," he said, "have sufficient reasons to be nationalistic without having to be dependent on Nicaragua, Cuba, or the Soviet Union. It is not an ideological struggle but a fight against the foreign presence in our country. Our sole recourse, as for all small countries, are international organizations such as the United Nations or the OAS. Unfortunately, we have no other means of defending ourselves against the world's greatest power."

Nevertheless Gen Noriega warned the United States against the temptation of a military intervention, recalling the clashes of January 1964. The risks of a confrontation are all the greater now that the authorities have started distributing weapons to civilians and giving them military training in several parts of the country.

On Financial Center

PA120415 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0320 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Today General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama Defense Forces commander, stated that the financial center operating in Panama served its purpose and the current crisis put an end to it. The United States set up this center and it was that country which dismantled it. Noriega admitted that the financial center eased the movement of

drug money that was not to be invested in Panama. It cannot be said that the drug laundering was controlled in Panama; it was controlled by the United States.

The Panamanian leader reiterated that the focal point of the drug problem lies in the United States, which is the consumer country. That is where the drugs are paid for. There are drug-producing and drug-consuming countries. The other countries, such as Panama, are only conduits, Noriega insisted.

Government Proposes Truce to Opposition

PA111955 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1927 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Panama, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Panamanian Government proposed a truce to the opposition; that is, the organizations participating in the national dialogue coordinated by the People's United Front (FUP), a dialogue in which the major opposition groups are not participating, sources participating in the meeting reported.

The proposal presented by Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez and Commerce and Industry Minister Mario Rognoni includes a 1-month truce between the government and the opposition, during which the closed opposition media would be reopened, Cleto Sousa, (communist pro-Soviet) People's Party [PdP] secretary general, told ACAN-EFE. The PdP is participating in the dialogue.

Three newspapers (LA PRENSA, EXTRA, and EL SIGLO) and three radio stations (Radio Continente, Radio Exitosa, and Radio Mundial) remain closed for the alleged crime of disrupting public order, while the license of the television network Channel 5 [Panavision Television], owned by deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle, has been canceled.

This proposal by the government—which includes the release of any political prisoners—is the first proposal presented since the national dialogue coordinated by FUP began in Panama on 4 April. FUP is an organization linked to the government and composed of workers, peasants, and state officials.

Although the dialogue does not have any power to adopt decisions, it seeks to find political and economic solutions to the crisis Panama has been experiencing for the last 10 months.

The government proposal also requested from the opposition members that the solutions they propose carry no "foreign intervention," specifically from the United States.

The PdP secretary general told ACAN-EFE that the 15 organizations participating in the national dialogue will study the proposal presented by the representatives of the government and will announce their opinion next week.

Meanwhile, the opposition continues its nonacceptance of the FUP's invitation to participate in this national dialogue.

The opposition claims it will sit down to negotiations only if the government guarantees the removal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from his post of commander in chief of the Army.

Further on Truce

PA120159 Paris AFP in Spanish 0055 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 11 Apr (AFP)—Today the Panamanian Government proposed the suspension of "demonstrations, marches, and public activities" by the opposition and the government "to resolve" the country's 10-month-long crisis.

The proposal includes the government's commitment to reopen the closed communications media, but also stipulates that the press will not speak of the political crisis shaking the country.

The proposal, which can be extended for 30 more days, must be approved by the dialogue called by the People's Unity Front (FUP). The apostolic nunciature will serve as the repository.

Nonetheless, this dialogue is not being attended by the opposition parties of the National Civic Crusade [CCN], which are the ones that have led the struggle in the past months demanding the ouster of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from power.

In its proposal presented at the dialogue, the government noted that in order to provide a favorable climate to seek solutions to the political, social, and economic crisis, "demonstrations, concentrations, marches, and public activities on both sides" must be suspended.

Furthermore, the groups in conflict must end their participation in local and foreign radio and television programs on topics related to the conflict and all political prisoners must be freed.

The proposal contemplates the creation of a superior truce council made up of representatives of the executive branch, the government and opposition parties, the CCN, the church, the FUP, the workers, and the Panama Defense Forces.

Finally, it includes the drafting of a law that will permit the legal registration of the seven political parties suspended in 1984, including the Popular Nationalist, the Authentic Liberal, the Revolutionary Workers Party, the People's Party (communist), and the Socialist Workers Party.

According to Mario Rognoni, who represents the president, the proposal to be discussed on Wednesday strives to attain the proper climate to resolve the current conflict.

Solis Says Solution Possible in '1 Week'

PA111755 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1655 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Yesterday President Manuel Solis Palma told an international journalist that the Panamanian crisis will be resolved in 1 week at the latest. Likewise, sources close to the majority Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, the most important of the parties comprising the National Democratic Union, UNADE, have confirmed that Panama cannot continue with this crisis and that we must find a solution now.

Those attitudes contrast with the stubborn attitude taken by groups comprising the National Civic Crusade, which say they are prepared for a national dialogue but establish one condition: General Manuel Antonio Noriega's resignation and departure from the country.

It is therefore clear who is responsible for the Panamanian people's suffering, caused by the vile economic and military aggression unleashed by the U.S. Government.

On Noriega, U.S.

PM110926 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 3-4 Apr 88 p 10 (AVANTI! Della Domenica supplement)

[Interview with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, by Tito Borla in Panama City; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Borla] Mr President, Panama enjoys broad solidarity with its aspiration of independence for its own territory. This solidarity ceases when the constant reply to specific U.S. charges is that they are a pretext designed to create an issue that will enable the Americans to not leave their military bases and the Panama Canal. This could be partly true, but why are specific answers not given to the precise questions put to one man, thus avoiding involving all Panamanians, who are not being challenged?

[Solis] It is undeniable that one man alone is in charge in Panama. In all governments there is always a single person who emerges, one leader. At present the most prominent person in Panama is General Manuel Antonio Noriega, just as Omar Torrijos was before his death and just as others were in earlier times. The leaders are the most representative figures, and it is believed that they can be held responsible for everything that happens in a country. Therefore all the charges leveled at that person apply to the country as a whole. The problem with this image at present and the reason for the charges can be discerned from the fact that the leader is a military man. Of course the United States is worried about the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which envisages the American bases' evacuation from the Panama Canal within 12 years, and the Defense Forces are at present an obstacle to a possible renegotiation of the treaty. I have often wondered what the "Noriega problem" is. Obviously, he could not remain in power through 1999 even if he wanted to: He will be out of the scene by then. Noriega cannot last more than 1, 2, 3 years. The Noriega problem will be eliminated naturally.

So what is the problem? The answer can be found in the fact that if the Americans even now are uncertain about the revision of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties with the Defense Force's backing, they must start to dismantle their military bases in Panama now, immediately! According to experts' estimates, the dismantling of the bases and military installations would cost the Americans $30 billion.

If they remain, however, they must modernize their bases and spend a great deal of money, but before investing they must be sure of remaining, with a guarantee from the government and the military.

Do you know why the United States is again in conflict with Panamanian interests? Because there have been radical changes of military strategies. When the Torrijos-Carter Treaties were signed in 1977 the military bases in Panama had lost their importance for the United States. In the presence of missiles and medium- and long-range nuclear weapons, a military base could resolve nothing, unless the intention was to use it for local Latin American purposes. However, with the gradual elimination of medium- and long-range nuclear weapons, military strategy is returning to the conventional method and military bases are becoming important again. These are the real issues: It is pointless to talk about other things because they are false.

[Borla] Would you care to comment on the charges being leveled at Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega?

[Solis] The United States is accusing Noriega without offering any proof. If it has proof of Noriega's activities as a drug trafficker or of his having supported drug trafficking back at the time he was a major or colonel, why did it not accuse him of it then? Why did it not do so when he was a candidate for the command? The United States has always had great influence on our Armed Forces' internal affairs and knew in advance about Noriega's appointment. Why did it not make its charges then, when he was a colonel and head of the state security services? It has done so now because it is experiencing difficulties with Noriega over the Nicaragua problem, because of the disagreements with Poindexter over Panama's support for the Contadora Group, which does not agree with Reagan's Central American policy. We remain perplexed by the fact that, first, the DEA wrote letters to Noriega describing him as a "great cooperator against drug trafficking" and then, suddenly, they say he is a drug trafficker who must be removed! They say they have long had proof that Noriega is a drug trafficker, but in that case it is disgusting that they negotiated with an enemy of mankind, in which case the United States bears the greatest blame because it turned a blind eye to the situation.

[Borla] In your statement to the nation on the evening of your appointment you repeated the word "democracy" several times. Now there has been a clampdown on newspapers, radio, and television in Panama. Do you not regard freedom of the press as the fundamental basis of democracy?

[Solis] I believe in the democratic system, and my entire life has been oriented in this direction. I believe press freedom and freedom of assembly are fundamental to democracy. Democracy is something else as well: It must provide an opportunity to those who have nothing. It is like a horse race in which some—those who have nothing—start with a handicap. This is a reality we acknowledge—a reality influenced by the weakness of democracy itself, which is insecure in Panama. Democracy has been abused: The limits of decency and the law have been exceeded and the government has been forced to curb this abuse. Citizens were even incited to block the streets, to commit arson, to destroy cars, to create a panic in the banks, and to commit financial terrorism forbidden by our laws.

[Borla] The opposition objects and criticizes the fact that the military has been entrusted with too many activities which lie outside its proper sphere of responsibility.

[Solis] Most recently, since 1978, the country's leadership has been in the hands of the military. When the time came for formal, rather than effective, democracy, unfortunately no leader emerged who was able to stand above the image of the head of the Armed Forces, which remains stronger than the president's. There is no fundamental objective obstacle preventing the president from exercising his powers, but since 1984 he has encountered, and will continue to encounter, difficulties that are not imposed by the defense command but that stem from a situation that we are tackling as the result of 17 years of total politico-military domination by the Defense Forces. This is a situation that cannot be resolved overnight.

Yesterday I had a meetings with deputies, then with some bankers, and later with a group of workers, and I did not request permission for this from the military command. It seems to me, however, that between 1984 and now workers were unable to meet with the two presidents who preceded me. When the president does not receive workers, however, they go to the military command and receive a reply there. In such cases the military commander obviously assumes the role that others have failed to assume, and the community seeks the shortest and easiest way of resolving its problems.

The opposition is critical because roads are being constructed by the Armed Forces and not by the Public Works Ministry. The military established a civilian section many years ago and its activity is more efficient: Its personnel do not have limits on their working hours, do not strike, and are always available. To believe that all this can be completely transferred all at once to the Public Works Ministry so that the Armed Forces can remain in their barracks is simply to ignore the situation that has become established between the military and civilian authorities.

Fuel Reserves Low; Crisis 'Getting Worse'

PA112337 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2124 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 11 Apr (DPA)—Panama's general crisis is getting worse as a spokesmen for the industrial sector reported today that the country has very low fuel reserves and that the existing reserves are below the amount legally required to guarantee that the country has sufficient gasoline and diesel.

Today industrial trade union spokesman Carlos Valencia told DPA of his concern over the low fuel reserves and also noted that a top government official had told him that Panama owes Mexico and Venezuela for petroleum received in the past.

Panama comes under a 1980 petroleum agreement that enables 11 countries to receive fuel. The agreement stipulates that 20 percent of the petroleum bill is to be invested in development programs.

Another industrialist, who wished to remain anonymous, stated: "Panama is in danger of not having industrial fuel within a few weeks."

In addition, Francisco Anderson, president of the "Colon Free Zone," the biggest duty free area in Latin America, stated: "Most of our firms will have to close if banks do not open their doors soon."

According to Anderson, the 5-week-long bank shutdown is hurting 100 percent of the Free Zone firms. The "Colon Free Zone" generates 8,000 jobs and has $4.2 billion in annual sales.

Today teachers protested salary payment delays in front of the Education Ministry building. The government reported that classes in grammer and high schools will not be resumed until the crisis is over and that they will look for some way to pay the teachers' salaries.

Also, today the country's 60,000 pensioners requested that they be paid their allotments for the second half of March.

The "National Civic Crusade" reported that there will be protests in Panama City during the coming days. There are reports that the unemployed will hold a protest march next Wednesday; Catholics are scheduled to hold one on Thursday, and workers and businessmen will hold another march on Friday.

It has been reported that some 3,000 soldiers are holding routine military exercises in the Panama Canal area every day. The "Panama Defense Forces," headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, reported that "the entire country is peaceful."

Despite the official request for banks to open, Panama's 132 banks did not open today. The Panamanian Government has not commented on the latest economic measures taken by the United States, which will place an economic blockade on the Central American country.

An opposition leader, who requested that his name not be revealed, reported that deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle is preparing a statement to the country that will be broadcast in coming days. Delvalle was deposed on 25 February, 8 hours after he dismissed Gen Noriega.

It has been reported that the number of Panamanians presently receiving voluntary military training amount to [words indistinct].

FDP Officer on U.S. 'War Installations'

PA112241 Paris AFP in Spanish 1909 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Excerpts] Ancon Hill, Panama, 11 Apr (AFP)—A gigantic red, blue, and white Panamanian flag was raised over Ancon Hill in 1977, symbolizing the nation's sovereignty over the Canal Zone, but few remember that the headquarters of the U.S. Armed Forces Southern Command, the most important military base in Latin America, operates under that flag.

Quarry Heights, headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command, is located here. A command post for military operations in Latin America and a complex electronic espionage and telecommunications systems is located here.

According to Panamanian Government sources, the Grenada invasion was prepared and coordinated from Quarry Heights in November 1983; and the United States provided valuable military information to England during the Malvinas war.

Approximately 27,000 U.S. civilians live here, along with 10,000 soldiers who live on five bases and approximately nine various military installations, "to defend the canal," according to the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

A Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP] source asserted that "any type of modern communication in Latin America can be intercepted from inside Quarry Heights, including a satellite transmission, a telephone call, or a mobil-phone message." [passage omitted]

The Panamanian military officer stated that the United States maintains "war installations in Panama to continue its hegemony over the continent, from Patagonia, in Argentina, to the Rio Grande, on the Mexican border. [passage omitted]

According to the canal treaties, the United States "is primarily responsible for protecting and defending" the waterway until 2000, when it reverts to Panama, and it is authorized to "adopt measures" if the canal's security is threatened. [passage omitted]

Youth Leader Urges Action Against U.S. Bases

PA111522 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Apr 88 p 2-A

[Text] The Panamanian youth are prepared to defend national sovereignty and popular sovereignty, and the aggressors of the U.S. Army will fall like flies as a result of the unity of fire of the people beside the Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP], said Francisco Puente, national chief of Revolutionary Panamenist Party (PPR) youth, the Black Berets. Puente is also PPR under secretary general.

In a speech delivered on Thursday before the youth delegates of the first conference of patriotic youths, he proposed the creation of a youth command for the defense of the homeland, which, under the direct guidance of officers who have proven their nationalism and love for the people as FDP members, would instruct the youth in irregular struggle to repel the Yankees.

The Black Berets leader also proposed the urgent mobilization of all the organized youth groups of all five continents, the staging of protest marches outside the Yankee embassies throughout the world, and direct actions against U.S. military bases throughout the world.

Puente thanked the Colombian M-19 guerrilla movement for making a "rocket blast" [roquetazo] against the Yankee embassy in Bogota.

The Black Berets' national leader also appealed for the incorporation of the entire family, especially young women, into the defense of the homeland.

Puente referred to the important area of the Panama Canal's defense, especially the management of the canal. He rejected the U.S. policy of converting the command posts of the Canal Commission into oligarchic positions and denying the professionals and technicians who rose from the ranks—people with nationalistic conscience—participation in Panamanizing the Panama Canal.

Finally, the national Black Berets leader gave full and unconditional support for the nationalistic personality of General Manuel A. Noriega, who as commander in chief

of the FDP and commander in chief of the popular groups in defense of the homeland has taken a firm stand against the vile aggression that attempts to vanquish us with hunger.

"The traitors shall not pass; the Yankee soldiers shall not pass. Panama will be victorious because we are already victorious...the Panamanian youth are firmly next to their commander, who is not negotiable...next to constitutional President Manuel Solis Palma and all the popular, democratic, and nationalistic forces," said Francisco Puente, who made an oath to peace: To have peace, we must defeat the seditious members of the Civic Crusade and defeat the military aggression.

U.S. Military TV Creates 'Unrest,' 'Panic'

PA111455 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 Apr 88 pp 2, 10

["Hard Line" column by Alberto Barrera]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] SCN [Southern Command Network] Television Channel 8, which is located on Panamanian territory in the former Canal Zone, has strayed from and obviated the provisions of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties by reporting on all the campaigns launched by the most reactionary U.S. sectors and by the turncoats Eric Arturo Delvalle, Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Juan B. Sosa, and Alberto Garcia de Paredes. SCN does this to destabilize our country; create unrest and panic; divide the Panamanian family; undermine our Defense Forces, with General Manuel Antonio Noriega as the main target; and, in sum, create the conditions for turning us into a colony.

All the news broadcast on SCN Television is misconstrued, and the truth is intentionally omitted. All its newscasts are full of hate and lies, without taking into consideration that the station operates on Panamanian territory.

What would be done to a television station operating in the United States if on a daily basis it carried out a systematic, slanderous, and guileful campaign against top-level government leaders and tried to undermine the Armed Forces commander's reputation?

Our authorities must take the necessary measures so SCN will abide by the treaties' regulations.

Our foreign minister, Dr Jorge Abadia Arias, should speak up.

Crusade Leader De la Lastra Goes to Venezuela

PA110443 Paris AFP in Spanish 0017 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 10 Apr (AFP)—Panamanian opposition leader Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra left for Venezuela this afternoon after Panamanian authorities made him choose between exile and jail.

The State Security office arrested Gonzalez de la Lastra on 28 March and released him on Friday night.

Later, the opposition leader remained at the apostolic nunciature as a "guest," and Spanish Ambassador Tomas Lozzano accompanied him to Omar Torijos International Airport.

In a letter delivered to the press today, Gonzalez de la Lastra—to whom, according to opposition sources, the authorities recommended "exile or Coiba, the penal island"—said "I am proud to be a member of the National Civic Crusade [CCN], because through a peaceful struggle we have been able to completely isolate the tyrant Noriega, and his days are numbered."

"There is not a single social, professional, or business sector that supports this destructive government and, internationally, there is not a single government or people that supports the usurper of power in Panama," Gonzalez de la Lastra warned, referring to the chief of the Panama Defense Forces, whose resignation has been demanded by the CCN since June.

Gonzalez de la Lastra urged government opponents to continue protesting in the streets, because the fatherland demands "that we put aside selfish interests in favor of the ideals of freedom."

Approximately 100 opposition members went to the airport to witness the departure of Gonzalez de la Lastra, who was taken directly to the airport's waiting room and taken to the plane minutes later. Reporters were unable to interview him.

Today the CCN and the opposition parties reiterated that they will continue the struggle "until Noriega leaves and Panama becomes a democracy."

Cuba Donates 30,800 Pounds of Medicine

PA111444 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 10 Apr 88

[From the "Everything for the Fatherland" program of the Panama Defense Forces]

[Text] The Cuban Government has donated 30,800 pounds of medicine to the Panamanian people as a gesture of human solidarity in view of the current national situation. The Cuban donation was brought in aboard a Panamanian Air Force plane. The medicine will be delivered to the Health Ministry and the Panamanian Red Cross to be distributed to the country's hospitals as part of the contigency plans adopted by the national government for the health of the people, particularly children.

URNG Representative Visits, Voices Support

PA111450 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 10 Apr 88

[From the "Everything for the Fatherland" program of the Panama Defense Forces]

[Excerpts] Last Thursday the People's Unity Front organized a panel discussion to analyze the current Panamanian situation in the face of the economic aggression and the threat of an invasion by a foreign power. [passage omitted]

Guillermo Torrielo Garrido, better known as the foreign minister of dignity and who in 1954 denounced before the OAS the U.S. invasion of Guatemala, was a special guest and said:

[Begin recording] I am representing the revolutionary people of Guatemala, and I have the honor of representing the URNG. [applause] I am the president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America. [passage omitted] The Panamanian people should fully understand they are not alone. They are supported by the peoples who are determined to struggle with Panama. As an old revolutionary, I am here to place myself at the service of the Panamanian people and to fight to the last consequences. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Argentina

Politician Said Murdered by Government Agents

PY082307 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1316 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (DYN)—Alejandro Biondini, who heads the rightist organization National Alert—today said that group member Luis Alberto Vera "was murdered in cold blood by a task force" that is subordinate to the Interior Ministry. Biondini also said he is "close to Companero Carlos Menem" in the internal Peronist election.

Biondini denied that Vera had a grenade in his hand when he was found by the police, warning that "we will not let them kill us like flies, and we will defend ourselves if the government continues to act illegally with this campaign of harassment."

He explained, however, that "we do not want to level any charges against the police as an institution, because only one sector is involved," adding that "if they want to arrest me and press charges against me, I will neither hide nor go into exile because I have a clear conscience."

Concerning the links between National Alert and the Justicialist Party, Biondini maintained that "we are Peronists who have been sidelined by the current leadership, but we will not leave and we will not be kicked out of the party either, because we have substantial support among the rank and file."

In this regard, he said that "the renewal is a betrayal of the legacy of Peron, because it is social democratic," although he admitted that "we believe Companero Menem is a better Peronist than Antonio Caffiero."

Biondini charged Deputy Luis Manzano with being "the main agent working against us," but he refused to identify "for security reasons, the National Alert members who have joined the Justicialist Party and the CGT [General Confederation of Labor]."

Finally, Biondini criticized former Santa Fe Governor Jose Maria Vernet because "he forgot that last year, he authorized us to host a news conference at a government office," and journalist Carlos Campolongo, who "is attacking us today, but forgot that in 1980 I gave him a job with LINEA magazine.

Federal Police Raid Offices of National Alert

PY090331 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0125 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (DYN)—Argentine Federal Police personnel, acting on a warrant issued by Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal, tonight raided the offices of the extreme right-wing organization "National Alert" and arrested its top leader Alejandro Biondini.

The officers entered the offices of the organization: apartment 1, on the 6th floor of the building at 286 Santiago del Estero Street, shortly after 2130 tonight and arrested Biondini, "natinal leader" of the organization.

According to National Alert sources, the police officers and the court officials behaved "very properly" and conducted a detailed search of the offices.

The sources added, however, that no explosives or any other compromising evidence were found. The sources stated that Biondini was arrested on charges of "eulogizing crime" and for threatening to "kill five of them [not further identified]" for every member of the National Alert who gets killed.

Luis Alberto Vera, the activist whom the police killed in Sarandi last night, was a member of the National Alert executive board, according to Biondini.

The National Alert has called a news conference for tomorrow at the raided headquarters of the organization, which is expected to continue operating despite the raid and Biondini's arrest.

Second in Command Arrested

PY102238 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1231 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM)—Gustavo Enrique Barrios, who reportedly is the second in command of the extreme right-wing organization National Alert, was arrested last night in Beccar [Buenos Aires Province]. Barrios is being held incommunicado at the 5th police precinct in Beccar.

Barrios' detention was reported this morning by San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti.

Court sources revealed that Barrios was found to be in possession of loaded weapons and a Ford Taurus car with forged license plates. Barrios also possessed a small package of marijuana, the sources added.

The police operation began at 2200 and was conducted by Inspector Juan Carlos Rebollo, chief of the 5th police precinct in Beccar.

Last week, Alejandro Biondini, who is the leader of the extreme right-wing organization and who has been detained, filed a writ of habeas corpus for Barrios, charging that Barrios had been kidnapped by a heavily armed group.

Trial Judge Luis Fernando Nino rejected the habeas corpus writ, based on reports given by the federal police and the Interior Ministry stating that there was no evidence concerning Barrios' alleged detention.

Judge Reports on Recent Violent Incidents

PY081900 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] San Isidro Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti has confirmed that 11 people were arrested, and not 9 as had been reported, in the raid to the Los Polvorines residence yesterday. He said that there is no relation between this raid and the incident in which Luis Alberto Vera died. Vera was carrying a Spanish made grenade when he was shot.

The judge also said that the amount of weapons found in the residence demonstrates the existence of an illegal weapons market in our country.

Piotti recalled the arrest of Captain Manetti from whom a large amount of weapons were confiscated, and Piotti added that he is investigating a possible connection between this captain and the terrorist attacks that took place in the last few weeks. He said that a large amount of rifles, machineguns, FAL guns, and grenades were found in the Los Polvorines residence. The judge said that very expensive foreign cars were also found in this house. It is not known yet whether they are stolen cars.

He did not rule out the possibility that the gang arrested yesterday is responsible for commando-like robberies carried out over the past 2 years to the Becar Paper company, the Boulogne station, and the Martinez Bank.

Peruvian Air Force Commander Arrives on Visit

PY111831 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1433 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (TELAM)—Gen Pablo Novela Varela, Peruvian Air Force Commander, arrived here this morning. According to a report released by the Argentine Air Force, Novela Varela, who will stay in Argentina until 18 April, will visit the 6th Air Brigade, headquartered in Tandil, the Military Aviation School, the Logistics Unit based in Cordoba and other Air Force units.

Novela Varela was welcomed by Argentine Air Force chief of staff Major Brigadier Ernesto Horacio Crespo at the Jorge Newbery Airport. Novela Varela's official activity will begin tomorrow with a working meeting with Argentine Air Force officers at the Condor building.

Intransigents Decide To Form Opposition Bloc

PY111642 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0332 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (NA)—During its national convention, the Intransigent Party [PI] at dawn today decided to join the Peronist, the Christian Democratic, and the Popular Socialist Parties to form an electoral front for the 1989 elections.

The party's executive board today approved the decision to join a coalition that has yet to be formally established, and issued a document harshly criticizing President Raul Alfonsin's economic policy.

The PI board began its meeting at 1700, after spending almost 7 hours registering its convention members, estimated at 250. After deliberating for approximately 16 hours, the party issued "a final resolution" upholding an alliance with the "popular parties." This information was disclosed by deputy Marcelo Arabolaza, who chatted with NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS.

Another important point of the declaration referred to the need to "dynamize the party's internal front," which was unanimously approved.

During the meeting some convention members proposed a joint action with the Peronist Party, while others rejected the idea, stating that this proposals "should be postponed, or that maybe "a bloc should be formed to confront the radical government."

PI President Oscar Alende attended the meeting at the beginning of which the outgoing party leadership delivered a political-economic document, which was discussed by the party board.

Buenos Aires representative Antonio Croccetti was provisionally elected president of the national convention until the party officials could be elected. Croccetti was then replaced by Mar del Plata representative Manuel Alvarez.

Alende read an "exhaustive" report on the activities carried out by the PI executive board members, and another report on the activities of the national committee.

PCA Leader Demands Leftist Elections Unity

PY111857 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0234 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (DYN)—PCA leader Patricio Echegaray today proposed "an electoral agreement with which to unite the left" in order to prepare tickets "from the best of the leftist parties," including those "strugglers who, without belonging to any party, represent the people's wishes for a free country."

Echegaray's proposal was applauded by thousands of participants to the PCA Political Act and Festival in Parque Norte commemorating the party's 70th anniversary.

Moreover, the PCA leader labelled Economic Minister Juan Sourrouille as "an enemy of the people," adding that "he must be dismissed because that is the people's general wish and demand, as demonstrated by the wave of strikes that is affecting the country."

"He must be overthrown by an overall plan of struggle, not just by isolated strikes," Echegaray said. "We must paralyze the country on 14 April with mobilizations, and we must demand that the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] implements a staggered strike plan, approved by assemblies at the work places."

Echegaray delivered his speech—following that of Alejandro Mosquera, leader of the Communist Youth Federation—at the closure of the Parque Norte festival where artists Horacio Guarany and Osvaldo Publiese participated and 20,000 people attended, according to organizers.

The PCA leader said that "President Alfonsin has asked us what being progressive means, and I ask him if he thinks he is being progressive to pay the IMF $16 billion during his administration while he allows teachers to work for a 600 australes salary, to auction ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise], Aerolineas Argentinas, and ELMA [Argentine Shipping Lines] while he allows maneuvers at YPF [Government Oil Deposits] and neglected retired workers walk the streets. Does being progressive mean to decieve the people with just a Happy Easter and the Due Obedience Law?"

Echegaray said that Alfonsin "sadly addresses the country with the impotence of one who has no solutions to the people's demands." This model of a resigned and dependent country is not much different from that offered by Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Caffiero, who, Echegaray states, also said Happy Easter from the Government House balcony but who is simultaneously running an electoral race against La Rioja Governor Menem who in turn feels no shame in embracing the tyrant Stroessner."

Finally, he said, "those of us who are at the bottom of the ladder want a country standing on its own feet, a country of justice and not of impunity, a sovereign independent country, a country of people who refuse to remain on bended knee. We want a free, socialist country."

Humanist Party Considers Front Dissolved

PY110222 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0114 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (TELAM)—The second national congress of the Humanist Party [PH], which was held in Buenos Aires, today decided to consider dissolved the Broad Front of Liberation (FRAL), which the PH along with the PCA and other forces formed during the 1987 elections.

In a communique the PH explained that this decision was made because the FRAL lost its legal status on 6 September 1987, as it was only formed as an electoral alliance.

The national PH congress also decided to run independently in the next elections and named Luis Ammann, the current PH secretary general, as the PH candidate for Argentine president.

'Major' Lanus Police Scandal Said Brewing

PY111815 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Apr 88 p 7

[Text] (DYN) — A major drug, theft and bribery scandal involving judges, congressmen, police chiefs and political leaders is about to be brought to light as a result of investigations into the murder of Peronist Youth member Alfredo Genovesi and the Lanus police station break-in.

A local news agency claims that when the courts make the story public, it will be considered the most significant political police scandal since the re-establishment of democracy in 1983.

Investigations carried out thus far are said to seriously compromise two criminal court judges as well as various magistrates. A national deputy, a Peronist provincial legislator and at least four Buenos Aires policemen have also been implicated. Not all of the names of those involved have yet been revealed, however, for fear of obstructing the investigation.

According to informed sources, the courts began to detect evidence of a wide-ranging scandal when they opened the investigation into the murder of Genovesi, who was murdered on September 4, two days before the 1987 elections. Genovesi was apparently painting slogans in support of then Peronist Gubernatorial candidate Antonio Cafiero when a group allegedly headed by Radical municipal councillor Horacio Bontempo attacked and shot him. The case was at first believed to have been purely politically motivated. Bontempo was charged with homicide but he was later released when the murder weapon was found in the house of a police mechanic named Jorge Moro, who was then arrested.

Shortly after Lomas de Zamora Penal Judge Alberto Duran was appointed to investigate the case, an official stamp and a case-book mysteriously disappeared from his office. In February, Duran received a typewritten note stating the stamp and the book had been taken by Lanus Police Precinct Chief Jorge Angel Eirez.

Duran then asked for and received permission from the Supreme Court to bug the telephones of the Lanus police headquarters. After 15 days of listening, Duran collected 13 cassette tapes amounting to 300 pages of conversations between police chiefs, congressmen, judges and political leaders which linked them at least partially to the death of Genovesi, as well as general corruption, drug trafficking and gangs of highway robbers known as "asphalt pirates."

Sources state that the tapes reveal the full names of some of the individuals involved as well as key incriminating phrases.

Duran later broke into Lanus police headquarters with help from the Buenos Aires provincial police Special Operatins Force (GOE). The official stamp, stolen from Duran's office, was located on the premises and Eirez was arrested.

UK Reportedly Opposes Plane Purchase

PY092012 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1312 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (DYN)—Responsible sources have reported that the British Government may be trying to block the sale of five Spanish-made patrol planes to the Naval Prefecture, because the sophisticated equipment of the planes would allow the prefecture to maintain absolute control over navigation and fishing all along the Argentine coast.

The planes, which are ready for shipment, which have already been painted in the prefecture's colors, and which bear the prefecture's license numbers and the Argentine flag, are five C-212 CASA aircraft built by Spain's Compania de Construcciones Aeronauticas.

The sources said that the CASA 212 (the plane is named after the acronym of the manufacturer) is a multipurpose light transport plane with equipment for patrolling and for control of navigation.

Unlike the C-101, a similar plane built in Chile, the CASA 212 has no weapons because it is not a military plane. It has, however, sophisticated electronic equipment that allows it to have absolute control over navigation in vast areas.

The prefecture's coastguard cannot cover the long Argentine coast on the South Atlantic, which is full of foreign fishing boats that every day sneak into Argentine waters in search of a better catch, the sources said.

A recent study revealed that a large coast guard vessel, like the ones that patrol the border of the exclusion zone imposed by Great Britain around the Malvinas Islands, can keep 5,000 nautical miles under watch with 24-hour-a-day patrolling.

Each of the Spanish planes would allow the surveillance of—in the same amount of time and with the same operational expense—632,000 nautical miles, that is, an area 60 [as received2) times larger.

The prefecture confirmed that if two of the five planes are kept in the air, rotating with a third plane that will act as replacement, the government can get a total and complete picture of the Argentine sea every 8 hours. The clandestine operations would then be impossible.

The sources said the British intelligence service learned about the deal and asked the Margaret Thatcher government to block it.

In the Malvinas Islands, the British have German-made Dornier 228 planes, which are similar to the CASA 212 planes purchased by the prefecture.

The sources said the British are making efforts to get the deal canceled and to have the CASA replaced with the Dornier, in order to have control over the supply of spare parts in case of an increase of tension in the conflict zone.

A high-ranking authority has confirmed to DYN the existence of the British interference, but said he was confident the problem would be solved. He said: "The British do not want us to have those planes, and they prefer that we get the Dornier, because they have mastered the technology and they can continue to control the area. We have analyzed the case. The prefecture's planes cannot operate now because they are British-made, and we have no spares. If there is a new crisis in the area, and taking into account NATO commitments, we might find ourselves in the same situation."

"The Spanish planes, however, are already operating in Salta and Santa Fe with optimum results. In case of a new crisis, we can find spares on the big Latin American market where those planes are operating, like in Uruguay, Peru, and Venezuela, as happened during the Malvinas war," he concluded.

Arms Industry To Sell Armored Cars to Ecuador

PY111843 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1428 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (EFE)—An Argentine Defense Ministry source today confirmed to EFE that Argentina will sell Ecuador 56 Argentine-made medium-sized armored vehicles and approximately 20 Argentine combat troop carriers.

These combat vehicles are built with technology developed by the Argentine state-owned Military Industries enterprise. This enterprise also intends to sell this type of war materiel to Nigeria, India, and Kuwait.

The source said that a latin American country, which it did not identify, "is interested" in purchasing the German-made Meko-140-type frigates "Hercules" and "Santisima Trinidad" from the Argentine Navy.

Moreover, the source stated that the Argentine Air Force and the Brazilian enterprise "EMBRAER" [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] will soon begin using three "Parana" aircraft, built jointly using the technology of the French "Dornier" jet engine.

The construction of the "Parana" aircraft, designed to train pilots for the French-made "Mirage" "fighter bombers", is part of the economic integration and cooperation agreements signed by Argentina and Brazil in 1986.

Bolivia

Traffickers Kill 2 Agents, Police Seize Drugs

PY071355 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] In the wake of the murder of two members of the special force against drug trafficking by drug criminals in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the interior minister has decided to reinforce the police force in that city.

This was announced by Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete, who said that the intelligence and police forces are thoroughly investigating the murders. We want to demonstrate to the drug traffickers that the government will firmly continue its activities against drug trafficking despite these murders, he said.

Alderete said that the special antidrug trafficking forces confiscated 1.485 tons of cocaine in Chimore on 4 April. They also confiscated 305 kg of cocaine in the Chapare, thus managing to seize more than 2 tons of drugs in 72 hours. This drug will be burned in Chimore on 11 or 12 April, he said.

[Begin Alderete recording] This means that despite our restrictions, especially the financial ones because our budget has been reduced by more than 50 percent, the special force and the social defense under secretariat earnestly continue their struggle against drug trafficking in Bolivia. [end recording]

Alderete Seeks More Aid for Antidrug Fight

PY111426 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] It is very difficult to confront such dangerous enemies as the drug traffickers with nothing but goodwill and courage, Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete has said. He thus expressed his concern for the budget reduction of his under secretariat, to which several antidrug-trafficking forces are subordinate.

Alderete said the members of the antidrug-trafficking forces are not well paid. He said the special force against drug trafficking is made up of 600 UMOPAR [Mobile Units for Rural Areas] soldiers, a district commander in each department, and operations chiefs with support teams made up of Bolivian police captains and lieutenants. There are also civilian support groups, like district prosecutors, legal advisers, lawyers, and others.

Alderete discussed the possible creation of a multilateral force to fight drug trafficking.

[Begin Alderete recording] Although it is not exclusively a Bolivian plan, we will be the ones to benefit most from it. This project is being discussed at the international level.

Most Latin American countries fear that such a multinational force could threaten their sovereignty. We must therefore find a mechanism to guarantee respect for their sovereignty, thus justifying the creation of such a force.

It has been proposed that this force be subordinate to the United Nations or the OAS, but this is still in the planning stage. [end recording]

Under Secretary Alderete said the United States this year will contribute only $13 million to help finance antidrug-trafficking operations in Bolivia. Of this amount, $5 million has been allotted to the Under Secretariat of Alternative Development and Substitution of Coca Crops, and $8 million to repression operations.

He added that Bolivia will receive additional support from USAID, and $30 million through the United Nations in Washington [as heard].

However, Alderete reported that the disbursements have not been made yet, even by the United States, which has exerted great pressure for the eradication of coca plantations. [passage omitted]

UMOPAR Extracting 'Fees' From Coca Farmers

PY081418 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Jorge Gimenez, a former agriculture and livestock customs office director, has reported that UMOPAR members are illegally charging fees to coca farmers in the Yungas region. He said that a group of MNR congressmen who recently toured this region had denounced this fact.

The peasants, he said, are protesting the fees the UMOPAR is charging them to allow them to transport their coca-leaf shipments to La Paz.

Brazil

Mozambican President Chissano Pays Visit

Sodre Comments

PY090055 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Today Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano begins an official 2-day visit to Brazil. [passage omitted]

For Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, the visit of President Chissano to Brasilia reflects the importance the Sarney government gives to constant contacts with other countries.

[Begin Sodre recording] This visit follows talks we initiated during the funeral of the late Mozambican President Samora Machel, which I attended. We will now study what Brazil can offer in terms of cultural assistance and technological exchange with Mozambique. [end recording]

Chissano, Sarney Meet

PY091800 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] This morning President Jose Sarney received Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano at the Alvorada Palace.

During the 2-hour meeting with his Mozambican counterpart, who arrived in Brasilia on 7 April, Sarney discussed trade relations between the two countries.

President Chissano arrived at Alvorada Palace knowing that talks with President Sarney would not be easy because his country owes Brazil $82 million and has no means to honor this debt.

However, President Sarney made the following proposal to settle the debt: that Mozambique, one of the largest coal producers, supply coal to Brazil and that Brazil in exchange offer technological cooperation services and equipment. It was agreed that the Mozambican president will make a thrid proposal to reschedule the pending debt.

At the end of the meeting the two president's signed a joint declaration basically condemning the apartheid policy and the South African Government that has promoted various invasions of African countries.

Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre referred to relations with South Africa:

[Begin Sodre recording] Brazil has a very shallow relationship with South Africa, and to break relations with that country would be somwhat romantic. It is much more logical and effective for Brazil to have representation, but without maintaining diplomatic relations. [end recording]

After the meeting at Alvorada Palace, Chissano paid a courtesy visit to the Senate, where he was received by Senator Humberto Lucena, and another to the Supreme Federal Court.

Chissano is currently having lunch with Federal District Governor Jose Aparecido at the Aguas Claras farm. He will return to Mozambique at 1500 this afternoon.

93 PMDB Members Form Independent Bloc

PY091531 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Excerpt] A group of 93 PMDB Constituent Assembly members have formed an independent bloc.

According to Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes this does not mean the members of the bloc are leaving the PMDB because no agreement will be reached until the party's national convention is held in June here in Brasilia.

The creation of an independent bloc within the PMDB does not mean its members are leaving the party. This was stated by Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, referring to the document received yesterday signed by 93 PMDB members of Congress—23 senators and 70 deputies. The document refers to the creation of a new bloc and proposes breaking away from the government.

Ulysses Guimaraes said that nothing will be done about this proposal until the PMDB convention is held in June in Brasilia.

[Begin Guimaraes recording] Regarding the disagreements with the party, it does not [words indistinct]. The great debate of the party's interests will soon be held at our national convention, which is the appropriate forum. I think everyone will support the convention so that every fellow partisan, including the party's grassroots, may democratically agree on the course to be followed by the PMDB. [end recording]

Deputy Guimaraes said that the PMDB is a great party, therefore it has great problems, but that traditionally [words indistinct] and that it will overcome its minor crisis and continue to pursue its goals with determination.

Aeronautics Minister Views Economic Measures

PY081415 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima has stated that the measures announced by Ministers Mailson da Nobrega and Joao Batista de Abreu were adopted after a consensus achieved between the economic and military sectors of the government.

Moreira Lima does not think the freezing of the Price Reference Unit will provoke any dissatisfaction in the military sector.

Nobrega in U.S. To Attend IMF Meetings

PY111357 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega is at this time in the United States, where he will meet with international bankers. Before boarding the plane, the minister said that the objective of his trip is to participate in IMF meetings.

[Begin Nobrega recording] I will go to the United States as the Brazilian representative on three IMF committees that bring together industrialized and Third World countries. The Interim Committee is charged with laying down guidelines for IMF activities, the World Bank Development Committee discusses actions to promote economic and social development in Third World countries, and the Group of 24 is made up of representatives of underdeveloped or developing countries who deal with such matters as the foreign debt, resource flows, and actions aimed at developing these countries. In the upcoming round, Brazil will chair the Committee of 24. So I will have to report on the discussions held in the other two committees. [end recording]

During the interview, the finance minister also said that the suspension for 2 months of salary readjustment by the URP [Price Reference Unit] is not sufficient to hold down the public deficit.

Joint Agricultural Venture With USSR Outlined

PY112003 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Apr 88 p 20

[Text] Sao Paulo—Yesterday Brazil and the Soviet Union created their first joint venture in the agricultural sector. It will operate under the name of Plodimex of Brazil, Inc, not only in Brazil but throughout Latin America. The announcement was made by Leoni Kairuk, Director General [name and title as published] of Gosagroprom, which is subordinated to the USSR Agriculture Ministry.

The Soviet ministry will participate in the new concern with 65 percent of the capital stock. Brazilian companies will participate with the remaining 35 percent, of which Soluble Coffee Company Cacique will hold 20 percent, and Teachers and Sons of Brazil, 15 percent. Teachers and Sons will bottle Soviet Stolichnaya brand vodka in its plant in Nova Frigurgo, Rio de Janeiro State. Teacher and Sons President Kenneth Stephen believes a liter of vodka could be sold to Brazilian consumers for $7.00 (830 cruzados) at today's prices.

In Brazil, Plodimex will trade in fruit juices. Its director, Leoni Kairuk, said that this joint venture will help the Soviet Union reduce the unfavorable bilateral balance of trade. The trade balance flow toward Brazil is only 4 percent of the total bilateral trade. Brazil's exports to the Soviet Union amounted to nearly $340 million, basically in coffee, cocoa, and their by-products.

Chile

Pinochet Denies Having 'Lust for Power'

PY091441 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Speaking during a rally sponsored in his honor by the Association of Valparaiso and Aconcagua manufacturers, ASIVA, President Augusto Pinochet said in Vina del Mar that the government does not intend to remain in power for an indefinite period of time out of mere lust for power. During the rally, which was part of the activities the president has performed and that have been covered by Radio Nacional, the president reiterated the historical and institutional significance of the plebisicite. He said that it will be the youth, our children, who will face the consequences of this political decision. He added: The point at issue is not that the government is seeking to remain in power for an indefinite period of time out of lust for power.

A struggle has been waged to free Chile, and political chicanery now wants a regression of what has been accomplished. That is why, he stressed, the plebiscite will give the people an opportunity to project a massive work of progress and to consolidate a sovereign country on the forefront of socioeconomic development, preserved from Marxist totalitarianism.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Gentlemen, the country has changed. [sentence indistinct] The tireless and overwhelming march toward progress and development has overcome the old styles, paving the way for a nation that will not stop until its political and socioeconomic objectives are fully achieved.

Today I call upon everyone to close ranks behind our common ideal, which must [words indistinct] to be strongly united in the quest for the objectives that we have set for ourselves. [end recording]

President Pinochet added that 1988 is a year of great definitions for the future of the fatherland, and this future will be built by all Chileans, despite the deception of those who tell lies to receive money and to reverse our process. Facts are clear, the fraud is there, he said.

During the rally, ASIVA President Ernesto Noguera delivered a speech stressing significance of the private sector in our country.

Agreement With Creditor Banks Announced

PY090303 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 88

(Text] Hernan Somerville, Chilean head of the team renegotiating the foreign debt with the committee of 12 creditor banks in New York, held a news conference at the Central Bank and said that Chile has obtained new flexibility for the repayment of its debt.

[Begin Somerville recording] I am pleased to report that we have reached an agreement with the committee of 12 creditor banks in New York. The agreement is very good for our interests. All our objectives have been fulfilled. Negotiations began in January of this year and continued through February and March. I also had a meeting with representatives of the banks in Venezuela in March. This week we finish with the details of the agreement. [end recording]

The new agreement with the committee includes a reduction of interest rates applied to old loans as well as to loans obtained in the renegotiations. The agreement on interest levels is similar to other agreements creditor banks reached with Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil. Chile will save $22 million in interest payments the first year alone.

Another aspect of the renegotiation affects the flexibility of contracts. The agreement implies that Chile will have to resort to the international financial market for resources with which to finance different development programs. [passage indistinct] Somerville stressed that the 1988 balance of payments is already fully financed and that the country's monetary needs for the year are covered.

Poblete Refutes Opposition Criticism of Military

PY111412 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Orlando Poblete has stated that the opposition must acknowledge the supreme mission being fulfilled by the Armed Forces.

Poblete also said that those who pretend to ignore the importance of the 11 September [1973] events, or distort the task undertaken by the Armed Forces are acting irresponsibly, thus threatening to jeopardize the country's democratic process.

In a communique, the minister also refuted statements by members of the Christian Democratic Party, who downplay the role played by some military men. Poblete added that the Armed Forces strictly adhere to the law, and that the political game should not be allowed to cast a shadow on the ever-present reason the Armed Forces and Carabineros are working without bargaining.

Poblete said that the important fact is that despite the opposition's efforts in this regard, reality clearly shows the democratic will of the Armed Forces and the effective socioeconomic policy they have implemented, which represents a promising precedent for the natural consolidation of the process that has been developing over past few years in Chile.

PDC Secretary General on No Vote, PCCh Stand

PY080313 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] Secretary General Gutemberg Martinez has stated that the PCCh should make several internal changes if it wants to take part in the electoral victory against the regime. Martinez said that, first of all, the PCCh should clearly advocate the No vote, foresake violence, and break any link it may have with terrorist groups.

[Begin Martinez recording] We think that nowadays the opposition must not engage in discussions that can divert us from our main objective: defeating the regime in the plebiscite. The PCCh will have to make many changes if it wants to take part in this defeat, but first it has to decide to vote No, to work for whatever the Chileans want in the plebiscite, to abandon violence, and to break any link the party may have with terrorist groups. This is not a PDC requirement but a requirement that Chile has for all those who really want democracy in Chile. [end recording]

Martinez made the above statement when he was asked about the position the PCCh voiced yesterday. PCCh leaders asked the PDC to participate on a board for a democratic agreement to discuss and draw up the rights that must be preserved in the upcoming plebiscite. Martinez said that the main task of the PDC is to struggle for the victory of the No vote in the plebiscite.

[Begin Martinez recording] We cannot take one attitude toward the violence of terrorist groups linked to the regime and a different attitude toward those who use violence to fight the government. Our current objective is to work among the grassroots for the victory of the No vote. We do not want to engage in discussions that could divert us from our main objective. [end recording]

Martinez evaluated the current political situation in the country and stated that with only 150 days to go before the theoretical date of the plebiscite, the government has no initiative, plan, or candidate. He added that, meanwhile, the opposition is working together without any problems for the no vote and the recent government statements by officials reflect their concern about this situation.

Martinez concluded by saying that the country is being swayed toward the No vote. Therefore, the opposition must persevere with its calls to register and to vote No in the plebiscite.

Interior Minister Criticizes PDC Campaign

PY071917 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez has charged that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has repeatedly attacked the Armed Forces, stressing that this is unacceptable both in form and substance. In a conversation with reporters, the minister said that the PDC is not morally empowered to criticize the Armed Forces, because, he said, the nation can perfectly well recall the serious situation of the Armed Forces under the PDC administration. Fernandez added that the attack has a clearly political objective.

[Begin Fernandez recording] This PDC attack against the Armed Forces has a clearly political objective, perhaps to distract people's attention. Why do they want to this? Because they do not have a program (?to offer) and they have nothing to offer to the nation.

A few days ago we listened to their proposals; they have nothing new to offer. On the contrary, they just want to seize what the government has done. The nation has witnessed the shameless attempt to claim the sponsorship of the fruit tree farm project and the southern highway project. In this regard, it is good to recall that this is not [words indistinct]. This is the reason for the repeated PDC attacks against the Armed Forces. [end recording]

The minister stressed that the Armed Forces have cooperated in the development and modernization of the nation and that the entire country should be grateful to them. He maintained that the remarks by Andres Zaldivar about the political activities of Armed Forces' members and the criticism of Colonel Jose Zara are part of the attack against the Armed Forces.

Concerning the remarks by Col Zara, who said that the Black Berets would be willing to fight to defend the government, the interior minister said that this was said during a military, patriotic ceremony and that, consequently, they must be considered within that context, which is different from the meaning that has been attached to them.

The minister said that he believes the opposition is in distress, cornered, and without any message to convey, amidst sectors that promote terrorism and reject the current institutional system. Consequently, he said, the opposition is desperately trying to disrupt public order and promote conflict.

As for the crisis within the National Renewal Party, the minister said that the members of this party are intelligent, able people who can work out balanced solutions, adding that the problems of that party will not affect the pro-yes vote campaign.

Finally, Sergio Fernandez said that the reports about a cabinet crisis are absolutely groundless.

PSD Leaders Removed by Executive Board

PY120308 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Apr 88 p C 2

[Excerpt] The National Executive Board (CEN) of the Social Democratic Party [PSD] has decided to remove from the party the President-elect Arturo Venegas, Secretary General Levian Munoz, and party members Raul Lopez and Leopoldo Brull. They have been charged with making efforts to change the line of opposition to the government, a line that was approved in 1974.

The CEN's resolution was released yesterday through a communique signed by PSD Under Secretary Martin Manterola Urzua. The communique states that these people were removed from the PSD because they have misrepresented the party and because they have publicly made efforts to change the party's line, removing the party from its opposition stand. [passage omitted]

FACh Chief Seeks Brazilian Tucano Planes

PY091434 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Chilean Air Force [FACh] Commander in Chief Air General Fernando Matthei has said that Chile wants to buy Tucano planes from Brazil. He noted, however, that talks on the issue have not yet begun. He said he thinks the Tucanos will be bought to replace the T-37's, which have been in operation for 25 years.

Matthei spoke at the conclusion of a ceremony honoring five retiring Air Force generals at the El Bosque Airbase. He thus replied to reports datelined London saying that the Chilean Air Force would buy training planes manufactured by the Brazilian company EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company].

Appellate Court Grants Protection Request

PY120055 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Relay from Radio President Ibanez of Punta Arenas]

[Excerpts] The Appellate Court of Punta Arenas has granted a request for protection submitted on behalf of 10 people of the Magallanes region who have received death threats from the Chilean Anticommunist Alliance, AChA, terrorist organization.

This organization sent letters to 10 people telling them to either be quiet or die. The people who received the death threats are Bishop Tomas Gonzalez; Priest Jorge Murillo; the director of Radio President Ibanez, Jorge Tomas Escarpa; lawyers; reporters, and political leaders of the main oposition political parties of this region.

In its decision the Appellate Court linked the threats with the comments made by Gerardo Alvarez Rodriguez, cabinet chief of the Intendency, who said that those who believe that a victory by the No vote in the upcoming plebiscite represents a diferent direction than the one established by the Constitution, quote, will be killed, unquote.

The Appellate Court took this fact into consideration because AChA based its threats on those words. In its decision the court also says that it requested to the comanders of the 3d Naval Zone, 4th Air Brigade, 5th Army Division, the regional chief of the National Intelligence Center, and the cabinet chief of the Intendency

himself to report if they knew of the existence of AChA. Their answer was negative. They added that they did not know if this organization was acting in this region. [passage omitted]

(Juan Divaros), lawyer of the human rights organization of the Punta Arenas Bishopric, and who also received the death threat, said that the resolution of the Appellate Court is very importnat because it indirectly acknowledges the existence of AChA and its activities in this region.

FPMR Terrorist Bushman Reappears in Sweden

PY120024 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] terrorist Sergio Bushman, who was involved in the case of the arms caches discovered in the 3d region, has appeared in Sweden.

A report datelined Stockholm states that Bushman has held a news conference for local and foreign news media.

As reported earlier, Bushman escaped in August 1987 from the Valparaiso penitentiary where he was detained, pending indictment for smuggling sub-machineguns, grenades, and explosives.

Bushman, a former actor and an old member of the proscribed PCCh, refused to disclose the countries in which he remained after his escape and the way he was able to enter Sweden.

During the conference, Bushman, along with several FPMR terrorists who are living in Stockholm, disqualified the plebiscite stating that, according to the instructions received from the PCCh Central Committee in Moscow, the plebiscite is a total fraud.

According to reports, Sergio Bushman had formerly lived in Sweden and joined the Nicaraguan Sandinist movement. Later, he traveled to Chile to arrange the clandestine entry of arms into Chile, apparently using Cuban and Soviet fishing boats that operate off the Chilean coast in the Pacific Ocean. Part of this arsenal was used by the FPMR in the unsuccessful attempt on President Pinochet's life.

Terrorist Activities Continue in Santiago

Attack Blacks Out State TV

PY111916 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] A bomb attack perpetrated by a subversive group against the antenna of the National Television of Chile, located on Cerro Capis, 15 km from Copiapo city, has caused serious damage. Repairs and resumption of transmissions will take about 1 month.

According to information released by the Carabineros, this multiple bomb attack took place at approximately 2200. Three of the bombs exploded on the base which supports six television transmission antennas. The explosion completely destroyed the base and seriously damaged the dish located 5 meters from the remaining antennas.

The fourth explosive devide detonated outside the booth where the equipment is housed. This explosion caused a 10 cm wide hole.

It is believed that the subversives used at least 1 kg of ammonia gelatine at the base of each antenna. [passage omitted]

Bomb Near Officer's House

PY111005 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0034 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, 10 Apr (EFE) —Police sources have reported that a bomb went off in front of the house of Gustavo Dupuis, a retired Chilean Army colonel. The house is located in eastern Santiago. No victims were reported.

The explosion occurred at 2330 local time (0330 GMT) and damaged a car parked in front of the colonel's house.

The police have reported that the bomb was placed by unidentified individuals riding a motorcycle, and that no one was hurt.

FPMR Threatens Carabineros

PY120257 Santiago LA SENGUNDA in Spanish 6 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] has threatened "to shoot" Carabineros if they insist "on mistreating political prisoners, their relatives, and visitors."

The FPMR made these threats in a 3-page letter addressed "To the Chilean Carabineros personnel," which was published in Edition No 28—the latest issue—of EL RODRIGUISTA. This subversive propaganda publication, which is published clandestinely, is the official written herald of the terrorist FPMR.

The threatening letter indicates in one of its paragraphs that "some officers and officials frequently adopt hostile, prepotent, repressive, and arbitrary attitudes against political prisoners, their relatives, and visitors."

The letter continues: The Carabineros "have an obligation to reconsider their attitudes," for their own benefit, for their future, and for the future of their families.

The last paragraph states: "Our eyes are focused on what occurs in the jails, and we are always alertly watching over the security of the FPMR militants who are in prison. We hope to obtain the right response from you.... We do not want to have to treat you as enemies, and be forced to shoot you."

Carabineros sources have declined to comment on the FPMR threats.

They admitted, however, that last month the FPMR threatened to machinegun government officials and Carabineros personnel, within the framework of the terrorist FPMR plan called "28th of March."

Colombia

Barco Appoints Acting Attorney General

PA071846 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] This morning President Virgilio Barco appointed Horacio Serpa Uribe, a Liberal legislator from Santander Department, as acting attorney general. The new attorney general will hold this post until July, when Congress will either confirm him or select a new one from a list sent by the president.

Horacio Serpa Uribe was born in Bucaramanga. He is 44 years old and is the son of Rosa Uribe de Serpa and the late Jose Serpa Garcia. He went to Santander High School and graduated from the Atlantico University Law School. He has been involved in politics for the past 12 years. Ten years ago he founded the Authentic Liberal Leftist Front, which today is pitted against the Santander Liberal Confederation, led by current Comptroller General Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia. Serpa Uribe's group, in coalition with New Liberalism and other Liberal groups, helped Bucaramanga Mayor Alberto Montoya win the 13 March elections. Serpa Uribe has been in the Chamber of Representatives for several terms. His group won the mayoral election in Barrancabermeja, where it has concentrated its political activities. He is currently a Liberal senator from Santander Department. He is viewed as a leader, especially in the middle Magdalena region. He is considered one of the most outstanding politicians in the Liberal Party.

Ministry Says Passport on Kuwaiti Plane False

PA120330 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0246 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota, 11 Apr (EFE)—The Colombian Foreign Ministry informed EFE today that the passport said to belong to Colombian Eduardo Manuel Rodriguez, who is allegedly inside the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft, does not exist.

The Foreign Ministry told EFE that a Colombian with a similar name to that on the passport is in Indonesia.

The source confirmed that Colombia has not reached the number, AA-988.265, which is on the passport, and that these series vary for security reasons.

The name on the passport, Eduardo Manuel Rodriguez, is similar to that of a Colombian petroleum engineer who graduated from the Santander Industrial University and currently works in Indonesia, the Foreign Ministry reported.

The Foreign Ministry added that, according to information from his family and firm in Bogota, Eduardo Manuel Rodriguez is working normally in Jakarta.

Terrorists Continue Killings, Bombs, Demands

UP Claims 70 Killed in Massacre

PA101410 Paris AFP in Spanish 1203 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 9 Apr (AFP)—The massacre of peasants, mainly those of the left, has become the new method of violence in Colombia, where the massacre of 36 peasants became one of the main news items from Latin America this week.

However, in an open letter to Colombian President Virgilio Barco, the leftist Patriotic Union (UP) said that 70, not 36, peasants were killed in Mejor Esquina, a small town in northwestern Colombia. [passage omitted]

In midweek, the UP charged that "the dirty war in the country has gone from individual attacks to massacres." It added that 75 of its members have been killed in 3 massacres in 1988.

It is clear that the members and sympathizers of UP and the People's Unity Front are the favorite target of the bullets of terrorism, apparently of the extreme right, which some people describe as neo-Nazi. [passage omitted]

UP Leader on Recent Deaths

PA111622 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0347 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 10 Apr (EFE)—The leftist Patriotic Unity (UP) has expressed it doubts concerning the Colombian authorities' charges that narcotics traffickers are responsible for the collective slaughters of peasants that have taken place in recent weeks in the areas of Uraba, Cordoba, and Meta.

Clara Lopez Obregon, a leftist liberal and former candidate for Bogota mayor on the UP ticket in the 13 March elections, said today over Radio Caracol that narcotics trafficking is being used as a pretext for hiding the true criminals.

The dirty war has passed from the selective murder phase to that of mass murder, said Clara Lopez.

UP President Bernardo Jaramillo has pointed out that it is suspicious that the criminals are acting freely in areas that are under military control and where heavy counter-insurgency operations are being carried out. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra reiterated yesterday during a Medellin meeting that the narcotics traffickers are behind the mass slaughters.

3 Killed, 12 Wounded in El Cesar

PA111342 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The residents of San Alberto, a town in the southern part of El Cesar Department, have lived through 8 days of panic. The situation worsened last Sunday when two labor leaders were murdered in the downtown area. Early this morning, several men attacked the headquarters of the Indupalma [African Palm Plantation company] labor union. They murdered 3 persons and wounded 12 others.

The wounded were taken to several clinics in El Cesar Department and to the Gonzalez Valencia Hospital in Bucaramanga. The victims were playing volleyball at the Indupalma headquarters when they were suddenly attacked with machinegun fire. A rigorous military operation is under way right now in San Alberto and the surrounding areas.

Bomb Hurled at Synagogue

PA112343 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Report by Felix de Bedout]

[Text] A terrorist group indentified as the Ernesto Che Guevara Nucleus [Nucleo Ernesto Che Guevara] threw an explosive device at a synagogue located at El Poblado neighborhood, Medellin today.

The attack on the synagogue did not cause any property damage or casualties. Two men riding a motorcycle threw an explosive device at the synagogue facilities, where preparations for a religious ceremony were under way. Approximately 50 people were going to attend the ceremony.

The self-styled ELN [National Liberation Army] Ernesto Che Guevara Nucleus claimed responsibility for the attack. The organization stated that the attack was carried out in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

ELN Seize Museum

PA092313 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Excerpts] In Cartagena a group of urban guerrillas today seized for several hours one of the most important places in the country: the Rafael Nunez Museum. Members of the outlawed Army of National Liberation [ELN] rapidly took over the Rafael Nunez Museum and robbed a facsimile of the national Constitution. They also painted slogans on the walls and shouted slogans in favor of their movement.

An undetermined number of individuals called themselves members of the Cesar Flores column, named after a Cartagena populist leader who was murdered 3 years ago in La Guajira Department. The individuals entered the museum posing as tourists. [passage omitted] The ELN distributed pamphlets and painted slogans expressing their opposition to a constitutional amendment and saying that the people do not support the amendment. The ELN also called for a regional civil stoppage.

Paraguay

Luque Colorado Youth Oppose Planned Event

PY071759 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Apr 88 p 9

[Text] Yesterday the Colorado Youth Council of the town of Luque released a note stating: "No member of the Luque Colorado Party will allow" the launching of the "renewal movement campaign," which, according to request being studied, was scheduled to be held on 17 April in this town. The note says the act "was meant to subvert the peaceful coexistance of the Colorado Party members living in Luque."

The note states that the Colorado Youth Council will not permit "national democratic institutions to be violated." It also states that the council will not allow "unknown and unimportant groups, whose sole objective is to destroy the political system of 'democracy without communism, to use the peaceful and progressive town of Luque as the ground for experiments in disrupting public order." [punctuation as published]

The note firmly warns: "On the appropriate occasion, the Luque Colorado Youth will 'emphatically' prove that it can use its own means to prevent the entrance in the honorable town of Luque of disrespectful and antidemocratic people whose attitude challenge the people's will, which was freely and clearly demonstrated in the 14 February elections."

The note concludes by saying: "This note reflects the firm convictions of the 27 subprecincts of the Luque Colorado precinct." The document is signed by several party members.

'Renewal Movement' Comment

PY091850 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Apr 88 p 9

[Text] Horacio Galeano Perrone, leader of the 'traditionalist renewal' movement, said that "it has always been our purpose to act within the law. As a consequence, since the Interior Ministry has not granted us the necessary permission we will respect the decision and not sacrifice our grassroots for the time being." Galeano

Perrone was thus referring to the interior minister who said that "no authorization has been or will be granted" for the meeting organized by the movement in Luque on 17 April.

Galeano Perrone noted that "the Interior Ministry's decision represents an incentive for the members of the 'traditionalist renewal' movement at the beginning of their political activities."

Moreover, the leader of the 'renewal' movement said that the interior minister's statement "deserves no comments." Galeano Perrone disclosed that he will meet with the remaining members of the movement this weekend "to discuss the next steps to be taken."

Montanaro on 'Renewal Movement'

PY091644 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Apr 88 p 9

[Text] Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, in referring to the act organized by the "traditionalist renewal" movement on 17 April in Luque to officially launch the movement, said that "in my capacity as president of the Colorado Party and interior minister I have not and will not authorize" this meeting. The minister called the group headed by Horacio Galeano Perrone a pseudo-movement." [Quotation mark as published]

In a brief statement to the media, the minister said the request made by the "renewers" is inappropriate, "in the first place because I am not aware of the existence within the Colorado Party of groups that do not agree with the principles and doctrine of the National Republican Association [Colorado Party]."

Montanaro added that, as a consequence, "if it is that merely a few people intend to act on behalf of the Colorado Party" then the holding of the meeting in Luque "cannot be allowed or tolerated."

The interior minister was also asked about the request for asylum made yesterday at the Argentine Embassy by Miguel Abdon Saguier, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party. He said he knew nothing about it. When the media persisted, Montanaro said "now I know about it" but refused to comment further.

Commentary on U.S. Ties, Lessons of History

PY100206 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Voz del Coloradismo commentary]

[Excerpts] One of the great lessons we have learned from our illustrious and distinguished leader, General Don Alfredo Stroessner, is showing respect for historical personalities who, through their conduct, their thinking, and their contribution to democracy, peace, law, and freedom, have gained a legitimate niche in the history of mankind. Never has our leader failed to show reverence for the great men of our fatherland and the world. Without distinction of party banners or political inclination, the forefathers of our nationhood have been personally honored by President Stroessner, who has never forgotten dates related to those who, throughout their lives, have forged heroic chapters of Paraguayan or American history— except, of course, the clay-made idols of international Communism, who unlike Western and Christian democrats who put their intelligence and abilities at the service of good causes, instead turned their energy and intelligence toward implanting doctrines and policies alien to humanity.

Therefore, the homage paid today to the illustrious memory of the Uruguayan personality Dr Luis Alberto de Herrera—a Paraguayan by adoption—reaffirmed the integrationist conviction and the historical sensibility of our leader and the men who are active in the Colorado Party. [passage omitted]

Dr Luis Alberto de Herrera dedicated half a century of his life to defending the Americanist ideal of nonintervention and self-determination of the nations of the continent. When the Triple Alliance war ended, he began his single-minded intellectual task of vindicating Paraguay, smashing the intrigues against our fatherland. He was an example not only for many Americans, but particularly for many traitors of that time and also for some traitors who today go around as beggars asking for foreign interference, which is not in order. And we talk about traitors to refer to a few cynics who serve the Communists and who for good reason were expelled from their own parties. [passage omitted]

The example of Dr Luis Alberto de Herrera lives on today when we see supposed diplomats who, disregarding universal principles of international law, trample our hospitality and defy their immunity by directly participating in internal affairs, thus brazenly acting in violation of the principle of self-determination of peoples. These newfangled actors of a strange school of geopolitics that will never succeed in imposing Marxism on a civilized, Western, and Christian people like ours ought to read the biography and get acquainted with the statemanship of a man like Dr Luis Alberto de Herrera, who defended to the death the sacred right of the people not to bow their heads before anybody. And if they do not want to read about men like Dr Luis Alberto de Herrera because doing so does not suit their purpose, then we, the Colorado Stroessnerist combatants on the front line, will make them pay attention to the example of Dr Luis Alberto de Herrera and to the just homage we render to men like him who have devoted their lives to friendship among peoples. These men have shown respect for the dignity of our fatherland and have not confused, as some people do, Paraguay with a colony subject to the dictates of other countries.

Our leader firmly and clearly said before Congress on 1 April: The Paraguayans demand respect for our national sovereignty and dignity. We do not accept professors of

democracy, because democracy is made by the people without foreign inteference, which is rejected by the spotless honor of the Paraguayan lineage. But we will never betray the bonds of friendship and alliance with other peoples with whom the Paraguayans have defended freedom and democracy in this continent, specifically the United States of America, with which the Colorado government of President Stroessner and the Paraguayan people are allied and will remain firmly so despite the maneuvers of those who want to destroy the bonds of this union. Any time the United States needed the support of Paraguay, it had it, without conditions or hesitation. When extreme measures were required to defend freedom in the Dominican Republic, the Paraguayans were the first to assist the Americans.

We will continue in that position, because despite the distance of geography and language, and even despite history, there is doctrinal and ideological identification between Paraguay and the United States. Furthermore, there are facts that confirm a harmonious and fraternal relation between the peoples of Paraguay and the United States of America. Never mind that some experts in drug addiction and other useful idiots of the left who have infiltrated the U.S. State Department exert themselves to weaken these bonds. We have been, we are, and we will continue to be friends and allies of the United States of America.

This is the importance of paying tribute to a great man like Dr Luis Alberto de Herrera, who exalted and defended the principles of rights with which our people are identified. [passage omitted]

Praise to Luis Alberto de Herrera forever and evermore.

Briefs

Balance of Payments Surplus

President Alfredo Stroessner has reported to Congress that after several years of deficit, the Paraguayan balance of payments for 1987 was positive. The surplus amounted to $36.3 million. [Summary] [*PY062043 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 6 Apr 88 p 11*]

Peru

Official Daily Publishes Decree on Credit

PY111304 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Making use of the authority granted it by Congress, the Peruvian Government has approved, within the planned period of time, the legislative decree regulating the range of operations of the banks and financial organizations in an attempt to decentralize credit, thus making it accessible to all sectors of national life.

Legislative Decree No 469 was published today by the official daily EL PERUANO. It was signed by President Alan Garcia and Economy Minister Gustavo Saberbein.

The decree contains 10 articles referring to organization and operation, capital and legal reserves, social organization, financial intermediation operations, secondary credit institutions operations, regionalization, decentralization and democratization, supervision and sanctions, intervention, administration, settlement or liquidation, and final and temporary dispositions.

Fishery Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba

PY081605 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Peruvian Minister of Fisheries Javier Labarthe and Jorge Antonio Fernandez Cuervo-Vinent, Cuban minister of the fishing industry, have signed an agreement for fishing cooperation which allows Peru, particularly, to export the surplus of fish caught during the year covered by the agreement.

[Begin Labarthe recording] It is a great honor for me, personally, and for the Peruvian Government to sign this agreement. It is with the authority bestowed on me by President Garcia that I put my seal on this document, which reflects the cooperation and friendship ties that bind us with a brotherly Republic of Cuba.

Minister Fernandez Cuervo, thank you very much for your cooperation. I hope this document, which is the legal framework for a mutuallly beneficial cooperation, is the first of several other opportunities of mutual cooperation in the field of fishing.

May the Cuban and Peruvian peoples, particularly the destitute groups who need more protein in their diets, benefit from this cooperation agreement.

Be assured that we will honor the commitments made with the Republic of Cuba. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

Reportage on Guerrilla Actions, Bombings

Shining Path Kills Mayor

PA071658 Paris AFP in Spanish 2030 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 6 Apr (AFP)—Today Peruvian Civil Guard officials reported in Lima that Shining Path rebels have committed five new murders.

Two of the latest victims of the violence—which has doubled since last week—are Santiago Chipana, mayor of the south Andean town of Totora, Apurimac Department; and Nilo Rios Quintero, an engineer at the Huachocolpa mine in Huancavelica. Both were killed between Monday and Tuesday, it was reported.

Another guerrilla group attacked the village of Recta Ponce, in the northern Peruvian mountain range near Trujillo, approximately 500 km from Lima, and murdered three peasants, two of whom were women. The guerrillas accused them of being informers.

The Civil Guard reported other attacks and announced that 15 policemen who had been initially reported killed in a massive attack by 300 guerrillas against Panao on Sunday reappeared Tuesday. The Civil Guard said the policemen had fled into the jungle in that area of Huanuco Province to save their lives.

Lieutenant Roberto Hernandez, chief of the detachment in Panao, said he ordered his men to flee into the jungle when police officer Alberto Valdivieso was machinegunned by the guerrillas after killing two Shining Path members. The guerrillas blew up the Civil Guard station, the deputy prefect's office, the municipal offices, and other government buildings, cutting communications between Panao and Lima. The Civil Guard said that because of the destruction and the lack of communications, it was initially concluded that the 15 policemen were dead under the debris of the police station.

Lt Hernandez said he ordered his men to escape to the jungle in a desperate effort to save them from certain death, because they were outnumbered by the guerrillas. The policemen began reappearing after Tuesday, when the Army and Civil Guard reinforcements regained control of Panao.

The authorities also reported that a guerrilla group attacked Puerto Pestana, San Martin Department, in this same Peruvian jungle region, on Tuesday and seriously wounded a sergeant.

The office of the ruling APRA Party in Tumbes, a city bordering Ecuador in the north, was damaged by dynamite on Tuesday, but there were no casualties, the police reported.

2 Killed; Train Derailed

PA101355 Paris AFP in Spanish 2129 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 9 Apr (AFP)—A plainclothes police officer and a Civil Guard agent were killed, while another agent and civilian were wounded last night in two successive attacks staged by alleged subversive commandos in different parts of Lima, Peruvian authorities confirmed today.

On 8 April subversives dynamited a stretch of train tracks and derailed a mineral-laden train 11 km from Cerro de Pasco, Pasco, in the central part of the country, causing considerable damage but no casualties, the regional police reported.

In this new subversive outbreak, which increased the number of casualties of violence thus far this year to 302, Civil Guard Sergeant Fulgencio Abad (45) was shot to death by a purported 4-member annihilation squad while he guarded a state bank branch in the district of La Victoria.

His companion, Luis Martinez (38), and a civilian named Miguel were wounded in the shootout that ensued after the attack.

The attackers escaped in a vehicle that was waiting nearby, and they threw explosives to cover their escape.

A few minutes later, Major Ricardo Hidalgo of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) was killed by three subversives who intercepted his vehicle in the Lima district of San Martin de Porras.

In the attack on the train tracks, the subversives set off 25 kg of dynamite, which damaged a 70-mile [as received] stretch of tracks, derailing a train with 27 cars laden with minerals of CENTROMIN [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise] bound from Cerro de Pasco to Oroya in the central part of the country.

As a result of the attack, railroad traffic from Lima to the central part of the country up to the city of Huancayo, 322 km southeast of Lima, was disrupted. According to the zone authorities, at least 48 hours more will be required to repair the tracks.

Today Erwin Ludamann, National Railway Enterprise (ENAFER) manager, reported that since 1980 the company has lost $35 million as a result of dynamite attacks carried out by subversives against machinery, bridges, train tracks, equipment, and railroad installations in the central and southern part of the country.

A total of 10 train engines and 63 cars have been damaged by rebel actions, he explained, adding that he will immediately request that the Armed Forces guard the trains on their routes, because the damage caused to ENAFER has "brought the enterprise to the verge of collapse."

Lima Supermarkets Attacked

PY110217 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0122 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (EFE)—A private store detective and an alleged terrorist were killed today after three subversive groups simultaneously attacked three state-owned supermarkets in Lima's shantytowns.

The private store detective was killed when five terrorists attacked a "low-income people's market" in San Juan de Lurigancho district in northern Lima.

In Villa El Salvador, a district located in Lima's southern outskirts, one of the attackers on a low-income people's supermarket was killed.

In San Martin de Porres district in Lima, the terrorists damaged another supermarket using incendiary bombs.

According to unofficial reports, the police captured six alleged terrorists, who apparently are members of the Maoist Shining Path organization, which has been escalating its armed actions over the past few weeks.

The supermarkets attacked by the terrorists are part of a sophisticated chain of supermarkets, which sells products directly from the producer to the consumer, a chain built by a Spanish company and recently inaugurated by the government in Lima's shantytowns and other Peruvian cities.

Radio Station Occupied

PA111844 Paris AFP in Spanish 0408 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (AFP)—Last night a subversive command occupied a radio station in the northern port of Chimbote and broadcast a message. Four rural mayors resigned their posts on Thursday because of death threats, the regional police reported today.

A seditious group—two women and a man, their faces covered with masks and armed with machineguns and pistols—occupied Radio Mundo in Chimbote, 400 km north of Lima, overpowered the personnel, and broadcast a 5-minute message criticizing the government.

After painting the radio station walls with slogans of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, the subversives fled to an unknown destination.

Other reports state that the mayors, of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Party—Luis Alberto Meza of Panao, capital of Pachitea Province, Huanuco Department, 400 east of Lima; Hermes Sumaran of Molinos district; Gilberto Duran of Chaglla; and Saturnino Castaneda of Umari—submitted separate resignation letters on Thursday because of death threats by terrorists active in the region, and because "they feel they lack the guarantees to perform in their posts," according to their own statements.

The aforementioned towns, located some 65 km east of Huanuco City, have suffered terrorist attacks. On 2 April, in Panao, subversives dynamited the police post, the state banks' branches, and other public offices, inflicting an undetermined number of casualties.

Factory Manager Killed

PY112035 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1643 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (EFE)—This morning in Lima, presumed Shining Path Maoist guerrillas murdered Franco Besnovich, who was production manager of a textile factory.

Besnovich was about to enter the Hilados Peruanos factory when two unidentified men opened fire at him from an automobile and then escaped at full speed.

Besnovich was hit by three bullets. He died while being taken to a Lima hospital. The Hilados Peruanos factory is located 8.5 km from Lima on the main highway.

Burro Bomb in Huanta

PY121340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0719 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr, (EFE)—A bomb placed in a sack being transported by a burro exploded in the market place of the town of Huanta, in the southern department of Ayacucho, where terrorist activities have been common since 1980.

The burro was killed by the explosion, and although the explosion caused alarm, there were no casualties. The attack occurred on 10 April, when Huanta was holding its market day.

This is the fourth time such an incident has occurred in Huanta's marketplace. The police have stated that these incidents have the intention of frightening the population.

The explosion occurred when the Peruvian flag was being raised in a nearby plaza, and it has been attributed to the Shining Path group.

Uruguay

Nicaraguan Interior Minister Borge Arrives

PY071803 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] This morning Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge arrived in Uruguay. The visitor, one of the Sandinist Front founders, was invited by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Borge will have a busy agenda which will include meetings with President Sanguinetti, Vice President Enrique Tarigo, and the interior and foreign ministers.

The Nicaraguan minister will deliver a lecture at the National University and will attend a ceremony at the obelisk sponsored by the Uruguayan Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua. In brief remarks upon his arrival, Borge said he was moved by this opportunity to visit Uruguay. [recorded passage indistinct]

Meets Sanguinetti

PY080111 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2251 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Apr (EFE)—After meeting with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti in Montevideo today, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge said that the situation in Central America is "difficult, complex, and temporary."

Borge, who as of today is an official guest of the Uruguayan Government, said the meeting he held with Sanguinetti, which lasted almost 1 hour, was "cordial."

Borge said that during the meeting "we recalled" Uruguayan participation in the Group of Eight, and "I gave a thorough explanation" of the Central American situation to the president.

Borge added that the meeting also covered Sanguinetti's recent visit to the Soviet Union and Sanguinetti's participation in the Southern Cone "summit" on 6 April in Brasilia.

Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Peru are members of the Contadora Support Group, which has been trying to get a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis for the last 4 years.

The Uruguayan Government has reaffirmed on several occasions that a "valid and lasting" solution to the Central American conflict "can only be achieved through dialogue."

Borge also met with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano and Interior Minister Antonio Marchesano. He plans to meet with congressmen, opposition politicians, and representatives of culture and the church.

During his stay in Montevideo, which will last until 9 April, Borge, who is a founder and current leader of the FSLN, will also meet with the Montevideo mayor and participate in a public ceremony organized by the Uruguayan Committee of Solidarity with Nicaragua.

Meets PIT-CNT

PY091819 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The PIT-CNT, which this morning met with the Nicaraguan interior minister, has not yet decided where to stage the central labor day rally. The work being performed on Libertador Avenue has made it impossible to carry it out in that area. Other possible locations are the 18 de Julio Avenue or the vicinity of the Legislative Palace.

Reagan Talks Unlikely

PA082345 Paris AFP in Spanish 2237 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 8 Apr (AFP)—There will be lasting peace in Nicaragua only after a direct agreement is reached with the United States, but this cannot be achieved as long as Ronald Reagan is President, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge said in Montevideo today.

Borge said during a news conference on the 2d day of his visit to Uruguay that his country's borders "are the borders of U.S. aggression" and that "in the final analysis the solution will be an understanding with the United States."

After stating that George Bush and Michael Dukakis seem to be the "clear" candidates for the next election, Borge said "direct contact is possible with a new United States president, whoever he may be."

However, he affirmed that at the present time "there are no prospects" of holding a direct dialogue between Managua and Washington "due to the gut (visceral) attitude of President Reagan toward Nicaragua."

"Mr Reagan awakes thinking about Nicaragua, thinks about Nicaragua while sleeping, and dribbles bile all day long thinking about Nicaragua with his head, his heart, his stomach, and his liver. There is no chance that this man will talk with us," he said. [passage omitted]